2025

LOK SABHA REPLIES

BUDGET SESSION,2025[4th SESSION OF18th LOK SABHA]
[10thMarch,2025 to 4thApril, 2025]

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*313
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 21/03/2025

CASES ELIGIBLE FOR LOK ADALATS

*313.SHRI SELVAM G:

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

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years and the total number of cases disposed of during this period;

(b) the number of pending cases eligible for resolution through Lok Adalats in various States across the country;

(c) whether Lok Adalats have been effective in reducing the burden on regular courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has evaluated the effectiveness of Lok Adalats in reducing case pendency and if so, the key findings of such evaluation;

(e) whether the Government plans to expand the jurisdiction of Lok Adalats to handle more categories of cases, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government has proposed any reforms to improve the efficiency and credibility of Lok Adalats, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *313 FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING "CASES ELIGIBLE FOR LOK ADALATS"

(a) to (c): Lok Adalat is organised across the country as per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matters as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in the Courts as defined under Section 2 (1) (aaa) of the said Act. In Lok Adalat, the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The award made by 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 the Award before any court.

The State/UT-wise (including Tamil Nadu)and year-wise details of number of Lok Adalats organized, cases received and cases disposed of by National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last five years are at **Annexure-A**, **Annexure-B** and **Annexure-C** respectively.

Lok Adalats reduce case load of courts by resolvingsubstantive number of cases from time to time.The details of the number of cases settled by the Lok Adalats during the last two years and current year (upto December) are as follows:

(i) National Lok Adalat

Year	Pre-litigative cases settled	Pendingcases settled	Total cases settled
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119

(ii) State Lok Adalat

Year	Pre-litigative cases settled	Pending cases settled	Total cases settled
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24	2,19,230	9,87,873	12,07,103
2024-25	7,68,560	4,39,667	12,08,227

Annexure-A

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *313 FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING CASES ELIGIBLE FOR LOK ADALATS

Statement containing the information of cases received and disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in National Lok Adalats during the last five years viz, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
		Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	756	248	5844	3997	5555	3310	5933	1536	7594	2976
2	Andhra Pradesh	74182	37896	244508	122839	1026449	647956	982779	671612	497317	262449
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1108	104	5689	1054	7938	1071	6837	990	8028	1771
4	Assam	158013	12188	341969	39642	707744	113989	963744	164445	1079328	179325
5	Bihar	645225	66451	1236850	151620	2594655	305483	2868992	357765	3183423	355600
6	Chandigarh	10261	2569	40301	16833	77646	15569	96578	63764	59511	36743
7	Chhattisgarh	259978	24464	355912	134548	1539[illegible]1	1125318	2105736	1664237	5141101	4634630
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7524	1768	1443	172	4343	1323	8456	982	8228	724
	Daman & Diu	282	31	474	113	1959	215	43579	19650	23371	8234
9	Delhi	92182	83006	178033	154992	617852	535025	817332	671278	852367	665892
10	Goa	3030	351	7863	168	24461	3934	23018	3505	26816	4052
11	Gujarat	184934	41584	1406063	748722	2731581	1185571	3926438	1863177	4410203	2161033
12	Haryana	120660	30298	337011	123413	1100069	673487	1343620	985650	1834082	1376486
13	Himachal Pradesh	12449	5971	88428	35556	255681	111150	368230	150181	365995	182024
14	Jammu & Kashmir	21151	13258	212805	166544	459202	390496	530332	404665	727975	679992
15	Jharkhand	127139	53152	394734	232473	1136756	1121405	3053483	2822947	5375328	5171277
16	Karnataka	652793	334681	2061134	1277856	5167842	3444607	17193581	14840452	15925526	14369064
17	Kerala	86812	15010	182458	68681	395978	136101	285372	157726	311233	59020
18	Ladakh	0	0	1958	1463	1948	1444	2796	1781	3026	2150
19	Lakshadweep	22	8	30	7	318	129	107	41	183	42
20	Madhya Pradesh	1075359	108365	2081030	347333	3125248	419776	3489492	536105	3389490	499888
21	Maharashtra	1578775	215837	9836163	2440375	34223486	4754239	27444014	3543736	58086210	4675264
22	Manipur	339	204	1144	794	1905	1343	636	437	1161	1003
23	Meghalaya	2344	303	4299	852	5318	956	4277	680	4506	915
24	Mizoram	800	218	3991	790	13529	4432	10757	4087	6745	1230
25	Nagaland	327	251	2251	941	3229	888	2566	801	2911	1021

Annexure-B

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *313 FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING CASES ELIGIBLE FOR LOK ADALATS

Statement contnining the information of cases received and disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in the State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last five years viz. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December, 2024).

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	2020-21			2021-22			2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	542	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3585	52229	30461	4874	19558	12123	4999	16380	6720	80	3511	1825	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	105	25	24	211	91	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	6	54	1	136	35117	13672	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	28	15092	97	1	1260	6	9	576	574	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	26	409	1	69	822	37	30	6536	538	32	5435	1413	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	491	10030	3475	187	1511	228	124	1487	139	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	300	200453	195359	250	149500	147103	60	15773	11094	198	131178	123151	184	149892	142568
10	Goa	8	2284	777	30	1857	3209	43	5094	1308	13	1109	245	8	1969	329
11	Gujarat	2851	41205	21880	5157	50840	15546	3805	95554	19717	12	11311	244	2430	25518	9914
12	Haryana	33774	87166	52789	54762	183542	115797	43135	420041	230018	92	37733	29196	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	90	6247	3205	260	73822	22031	142	6798	4198	59	2968	2580	41	1542	1507
14	Jammu & Kashmir	125	13946	9469	24	5191	3271	225	88719	76683	134	31572	28170	242	32853	29115
15	Jharkhand	607	82855	79649	1310	25336	22954	1523	15668	10868	1495	39685	33718	1032	1088707	797984
16	Karnataka	1912	250370	121884	412	5221	2524	229	35802	2632	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Kerala	721	17618	4837	302	184575	19226	607	85191	23246	657	108894	26231	576	80102	21526
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	4	43	32	4	294	240	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	32	3	1	2	1	1	4	2
20	Madhya Pradesh	1714	55354	14903	808	17282	4110	1242	14064	5367	1472	60425	48996	868	7873	1937
21	Maharashtra	22	1092	605	6	45	28	50	2954	341	58	6432	580	5	28	1
22	Manipur	1	32	21	0	0	0	4	91	43	0	0	0	13	331	295
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	23	619	89	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	27	435	147	17	551	204	51	3855	1202	12	273	94	48	1779	524
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	239	26104	4628	12	1770	326	6	135624	112422	3	284068	244230	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	24	1208	392	42	4728	262	47	13781	743	38	10770	492	23	8431	319
28	Punjab	0	0	0	339	6294	1108	6	20	15	154	6133	2263	0	0	0
29	Rajasthan	607	85891	34514	786	17182	845	1202	35255	1628	1086	40751	1039	793	25343	724
30	Sikkim	110	591	158	110	1590	636	150	1513	887	143	1111	784	117	1098	636
31	Tamil Nadu	767	49993	13117	759	76747	13066	1295	119811	16369	1336	196315	34744	452	70051	6041
32	Telangana	1501	27445	24327	2827	9043	7363	2604	32367	25365	2474	177182	171817	1931	78104	59122
33	Tripura	12	15132	6938	93	29317	11624	19	8033	2492	62	39021	25637	35	19798	13080
34	Uttar Pradesh	200	172225	100305	57	65708	31414	30	1768325	259125	172	1020023	411941	225	251198	116107
35	Uttarakhand	121	18482	6166	25	19190	8605	125	56459	26498	102	37193	17407	64	14610	6496
36	West Bengal	575	24812	13853	774	93743	74999	454	17167	10830	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	50451	1259401	744073	74480	1082215	532529	62194	3003269	851309	9865	2253115	1207103	9088	1859231	1208227

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3472
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 21/03/2025

JUSTICE FOR WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY

3472. SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:

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

(a) the details of Government schemes aimed to make justice accessible for economically weaker sections;

(b) the details and numbers of individuals who have availed legal aid services under these schemes during last 10 years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the success rate of cases filed under these schemes and the manner in which it compares to cases where private legal representation is used;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality and effectiveness of legal representation provided under these initiatives;

(e) the amount of funds allocated and utilized for these schemes in the last five years and the mechanism to monitor their impact; and

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to expand or reform these schemes to enhance their reach and effectiveness, 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 (f): National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act. This Act ensures that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable

settlement of disputes. In addition, NALSA has also formulated various schemes for the implementation of preventive and strategic legal service programmes, which are implemented by the Legal Services Authorities at various levels i.e. State, District and Taluka level.

Government is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme named "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA) for a period of five years (2021-2026), at an outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen-centric delivery of legal services through the Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programme. Under the DISHA scheme, Tele- Law connects citizens with the lawyers through mobile app "Tele- Law" and Toll Free number for rendering pre-litigation advice; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono services) facilitates registered beneficiaries to avail pro bono legal representation in courts and under the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, citizens are empowered to know, understand and avail their legal rights, duties and entitlements. Till 28th February 2025, DISHA scheme through its various programmes has covered approximately 2.10 crore beneficiaries in the country.

The Government of India is implementing another Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA. LADCS Scheme aims to provide legal aid with regard to criminal cases only to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. The approved financial outlay of LADCS scheme is Rs. 998.43 crore for 3 years (F.Y. 2023-24 to F.Y. 2025-26). As on 30th December 2024, LADC offices are functional in 654 districts across the country and has engaged 5251 staff including 3448 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 3.95 lakh criminal cases.

The State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last ten financial years i.e. 2015-16 to 2024-25 (upto December, 2024) are at **Annexure – A**. The data related to private legal representation is not maintained centrally.

NALSA has framed 'The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010', which provides for establishment of the Monitoring and Mentoring Committee (MMCs) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and

Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in the legal aid matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers in providing quality legal services.

Funds under Grants-in-aid head are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis. The details of Grants-in-aid allocated to and utilized by NALSA during the last five years are as follows:

Financial year	Fund Allotted (Rs. In Crore)	Fund Utilized (Rs. In Crore)
2020-21	100	100
2021-22	145	145
2022-23	190	190
2023-24	200	200
2024-25	200	200

For implementation of LADCS Scheme, Rs 200 crore and Rs. 150 crore were released to NALSA during the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. In addition, for DISHA Scheme, Rs. 171.15 crore have been allocated of which Rs. 156.13 crore has been utilised as on date.

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. Further, All India and Regional Meets are also organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. Expansion and bringing reforms in an existing schemes is a continuous process which is carried out simultaneously during their implementation.

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Annexure-A

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3472 for answering on 21.03.2025 regarding Justice for Weaker Sections of Society

The State/UT-wise details of number of persons benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions during the last ten years i.e 2015-16 to 2024-25 (upto December, 2024)

S. No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	57	39	119	51	43	65	79	134	220	205
2	Andhra Pradesh	3526	5722	7896	4545	4396	4474	6371	9473	8265	7185
3	Arunachal Pradesh	228	1172	3760	3752	3932	1984	2657	5559	5696	6371
4	Assam	1083	4215	7033	8850	8002	10027	110254	38335	63749	60121
5	Bihar	4257	9411	36567	78273	60139	38653	1689158	209809	151413	64390
6	Chandigarh	1226	2131	2521	3768	2261	1242	1781	2653	2822	2207
7	Chhattisgarh	39829	38785	43165	67318	81713	26814	42394	44106	62164	59670
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1004	131	15	28	28	10	27	28	55	32
	Daman & Diu	16	9	16	0	0	0	17	24	34	70
9	Delhi	31535	35286	42683	53015	79458	82131	79055	96433	121882	56471
10	Goa	1055	1214	1426	1612	3006	875	1101	2041	1558	1281
11	Gujarat	12817	12030	19885	21541	26887	8302	21953	32422	40569	36540
12	Haryana	9641	15811	18415	20326	19019	11059	23260	43098	76863	54796
13	Himachal Pradesh	1611	2340	3634	4842	4368	2083	4806	5998	7346	4845
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1605	3294	1402	4022	4961	7675	8870	7992	11396	12611
15	Jharkhand	4335	16007	79604	80640	30530	131691	649481	145217	269303	201453
16	Karnataka	3246	39878	53535	72621	145015	23211	32794	45663	53406	35209

17	Kerala	14242	78021	97249	533259	71058	11242	16895	23418	36498	19579
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	93	2408	711	505	261
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	48711	68227	140081	199129	268351	87843	3343800	191921	225510	189493
21	Maharashtra	7225	7692	14219	21265	24060	12278	22595	36663	53756	42480
22	Manipur	107	10292	10208	19620	18257	56635	22651	26929	62635	66914
23	Meghalaya	2342	2410	3802	3238	2914	2131	2346	2769	2371	1811
24	Mizoram	4237	4741	8536	12716	9473	1670	3201	5038	4801	3228
25	Nagaland	3981	8107	10749	38358	3691	4231	7750	7390	4603	3701
26	Odisha	3270	3768	7011	9695	8025	6029	8849	11880	19289	16243
27	Puducherry	993	729	1176	1299	1295	309	884	788	621	469
28	Punjab	12090	21153	31991	36131	127829	27096	36404	56448	60361	48984
29	Rajasthan	6112	15310	22002	14232	32413	12274	13833	13472	20290	16179
30	Sikkim	1091	1073	982	960	928	702	986	1127	1074	693
31	Tamil Nadu	59633	44522	59668	40835	35552	26491	38181	49570	45180	39403
32	Telangana	1772	2620	9051	18396	15145	3488	6712	12615	13193	11287
33	Tripura	2180	4972	9315	15089	13595	2136	2671	5055	9964	8339
34	Uttar Pradesh	8774	68367	46371	76852	60819	3545	132629	24890	29079	19026
35	Uttarakhand	1112	1905	2756	2703	3018	2343	3775	5386	21339	22798
36	West Bengal	16727	25305	25901	36235	41956	20906	29015	49714	62354	65454
	Total	**311670**	**556689**	**822856**	**1505216**	**1212137**	**631758**	**6369643**	**1214769**	**1550164**	**1179800**

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3476
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2025

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judiciary

3476. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
SHRI ALOK SHARMA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:
SHRI CHINTAMANI MAHARAJ:
SHRI CHAVDA VINOD LAKHAMSHI:
SHRI DULU MAHATO:
SMT. ROOPKUMARI CHOUDHARY:
SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:
SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SHRI P C MOHAN:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) in to the Judiciary and Law Enforcement in the country;
(b) if so, whether any special policies or guidelines are being prepared for the use of Ethical AI in the legal system, if so, the details thereof;
(c) the manner in which AI is being utilized to reduce the pendency of cases in Indian Courts and improve their working efficiency;
(d) the manner in which the law enforcement agencies could ensure accountability and transparency in the use of AI technologies; and
(e) the biggest challenges being faced in implementing AI in the Indian legal system along with the strategies being adopted/scheme proposed to be formulated by the Government to overcome these challenges?

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): According to the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, under e-Courts Project Phase III, an attempt is being made to integrate modern technologies for smoother user experience and to build a "smart" system in which registries will have minimal data entry and scrutiny of files. To create a smart system, the latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), etc., are being used in the e-Courts software applications. AI is being used in areas such as translation, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, Natural Language Processing (NLP), automated filing, intelligent scheduling, enhancing the case information system and communicating with the litigants through chatbots. This will facilitate in improving administrative efficiency by optimising the time required for various judicial processes and automating the ones which can do away with manual intervention.AI based algorithms are being utilised by the law enforcement agencies proactively for analysing vast data on crime and for gaining real time insights, thereby, facilitating objective decision making and taking care of ethical considerations in the process.

No special policies/guidelines have been prepared for use of ethical AI in the legal system, but its use is strictly within the confines of the areas outlined in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of e-Courts Project Phase III. However, a Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the various High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts has been constituted by the Chairperson of the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated

to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the eCourts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens.

Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. Under the eCourts Project Phase III, AI is planned to be used for translation of judgements/orders and other documents, for automated filing, intelligent scheduling of cases, Natural Language Processing (NLP) and for enhancing the case information system which will help in streamlining the processes, etc.

Some of the major challenges in integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into judicial processes, including case management, legal research, and translation services, include, potential biases in AI algorithms, language barriers, translation accuracy, concerns on privacy/security of data, need for manual verification of the machine/AI translated documents, besides, ensuring accuracy of AI enabled results. Efforts are being made for continuous upgrades in technology apart from skill upgradation and process re-engineering. Under eCourts Phase III, an amount of Rs. 53.57 Cr has been allocated for funding such Future Technologies and their adoption in streamlining the judicial processes and the challenges being faced.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3478

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2025

Judicial Infrastructure in Dhubri

3478. Md. Rakibul Hussain:

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

(a) the steps being taken to improve the functioning and infrastructure of the district court to handle the rising cases and ensure timely justice delivery in Dhubri district of Assam; and

(b) the manner in which the Government is addressing the issue of judicial vacancies and shortage of trained judicial staff in order to reduce delays in the justice system and ensure a quicker resolution of cases in the said district?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : The primary responsibility to provide judicial infrastructure for subordinate judiciary rests with the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the resources of the State/UT Governments, by providing financial assistance through the Centrally sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Judicial Infrastructure. The Scheme covers construction of court halls and residential units for judicial

officers along with lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Rs.11,886.29 cr has been released since the inception of the scheme, out of which, Rs.360.63 cr has been released to the State of Assam. In the last five years, beginning 2020-21, Rs. 154.28 cr has been released to the State of Assam. As per the information provided by the Gauhati High Court and the Government of Assam, the construction of a new Judicial Court Building at Dhubri, comprising 20 Court Halls, 01 Lawyers' Hall, 04 Digital Computer Rooms and 93 Toilets, has been completed at an approved cost of Rs.42.24 cr.

(b) : Filling up of vacant positions of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Article 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts. Further, judges of the High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India.

The vacancy of judges is not the sole reason for the increased pendency of cases in courts. Pendency of cases in courts is attributable to several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, complexity

of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Other factors that lead to delay in disposal of cases include, lack of prescribed time frame by respective courts for various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3487
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

Advocates Act,1961

3487. Shri V K Sreekandan:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to amend the Advocates Act,1961,if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the proposed amendments fail to address the pertinent issues faced by the legal fraternity, if so the details thereof; and
(c) whether the Government discussed with the legal fraternity to allay the fears arising out of the proposed amendments, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Government of India has proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961 and following careful consideration and through research, the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was published on the Department of Legal Affairs website on13th February 2025 for public consultation, which was open until 28thFebruary 2025.

(b) & (c) The proposed amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961, aim to modernize the legal profession, enhance its accessibility, and ensure its continued relevance in a rapidly evolving world, aligning the profession with global standards. A wide range of suggestions, particularly from the legal community, has been received. In response to these concerns, the consultation process has been concluded, and a revised bill will be presented a fresh for public consultation, including for input from the legal fraternity. The Ministry has been also actively engaging with the Bar Council of India throughout the process of amending the Advocates (Amendment) Act, 1961 as its commitment to engage legal fraternity.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3492
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2025

ODR and Virtual Courts in Maharashtra

3492. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil:

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

(a) whether the Government has plans to expand the scope of Virtual Courts beyond handling traffic challans, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage High Courts to establish Virtual Benches, particularly in Maharashtra; and
(c) whether Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms are being implemented across States/UTs, particularly in Maharashtra, 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 novel concept of Virtual Courts has been introduced under the eCourts Project. It is one of the tools used for implementing Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). The aim is to reduce the footfalls in the courts, by eliminating physical presence of violators or advocates in courts' premises. As of now, Virtual courts are being used for traffic challan matters. Under the Phase III of the eCourts project, Rs. 413.08 Cr have been allocated for the expansion of Virtual Courts across India. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, modalities are being worked out to expand the usage of Virtual Courts to various other summary cases, specially those involving the imposition of fines for minor regulatory violations whose statistics indicate that a plea of guilt is entered on the first date.

The proliferation of virtual hearings conducted by the High Courts is detailed at Annexure I. To use the facility to operate more virtual benches is to be considered by the High Courts, including the High Court of Bombay.

Under the eCourts Project phase III, an amount of Rs. 23.72 crore has been allocated for Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). Under the Phase III, an ODR centre for each High Court and a dedicated software platform to handle court related ODR has been planned. A separate software team and a centralised cloud-based hardware is planned to be set aside for running these ODR platforms over a period of time, which will facilitate in tackling the pendency of cases. In view of the importance of enabling dispute resolution through the use of Information and Communication Technology, Section 30 of the Mediation Act, 2023, contains exclusive provisions for Online Mediation.

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Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3492 for 21/03/2025 regarding ODR and Virtual Courts in Maharashtra. The High Court-wise details of Virtual hearings is as below:

Number of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts as on 31st January 2025				
S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	247388	6198497	6445885
2	Andhra Pradesh	407844	1439002	1846846
3	Bombay	68675	215481	284156
4	Calcutta	163716	96365	260081
5	Chhattisgarh	104224	306193	410417
6	Delhi	322024	6173665	6495689
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2856	8345	11201
8	Gauhati – Assam	267063	489453	756516
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	4137	13268	17405
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	1200	930	2130
11	Gujarat	412983	219558	632541
12	Himachal Pradesh	184912	190964	375876
13	Jammu & Kashmir	262032	550523	812555
14	Jharkhand	222671	706551	929222
15	Karnataka	1261954	169202	1431156
16	Kerala	166589	639489	806078
17	Madhya Pradesh	679551	1049797	1729348
18	Madras	1487878	394231	1882109
19	Manipur	52093	16546	68639
20	Meghalaya	6026	60566	66592
21	Orissa	342870	321286	664156
22	Patna	277696	2887777	3165473
23	Punjab & Haryana	616844	3040757	3657601
24	Rajasthan	244832	228175	473007
25	Sikkim	698	16133	16831
26	Telangana	1311437	195565	1507002
27	Tripura	22396	37854	60250
28	Uttarakhand	89051	48597	137648
	Total	9231640	25714770	34946410

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3528
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st March 2025

Committee for Fast Track Disposal of Pending Government Cases

†3528. Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a high level committee of impartial and experienced advocates under whose guidance such Government cases which are unnecessarily pending in the courts for a long time at district, State and Central level and due to which development is being hindered can be put on fast track and resolved/disposed off immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal/suggestion from the public representatives in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken/being taken by the Government so far 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) : No, sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) : No, sir.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3553
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE COURT IN ODISHA

3553. SHRI PRADEEP PUROHIT:

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

(a) the status of recommendation of High Court to set up an Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela, Bargarh district of Odisha;

(b) whether the Government is aware that litigants and advocates in Sohela face hardships under the new Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2024, if so, the remedial steps being taken by the remedial Government in this regard;

(c) whether a feasibility study has been conducted following the representation by the President, Bar Association, Sohela, if so, the details of its finding;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expedite establishing the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela to ease the 52 km travel to Padampur, and if so, the time line by which the court will be established; and

(e) the details of financial and administrative measures being planned to implement the High Court's recommendation for speedy justice delivery in Sohela?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): As per information provided by the High Court of Orissa, the proposal to set up an Additional District and Sessions Judge Court at Sohela, Bargarh District, Odisha is under active consideration of the Hon'ble Court. A feasibility

assessment has been conducted, which discloses that the average figures of the institution of cases of the last three years justify the said proposal. However, the requirement of suitable infrastructure facility for the proposed Court at Sohela has been reported as not available, at present.

However, the Government is committed to strengthening judicial infrastructure to improve the efficiency of courts and facilitate better access to justice. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Judicial Infrastructure Development, financial assistance is provided to supplement the resources of the State/UT Governments for the construction of court halls, residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms. Under the aforementioned Scheme, Rs. 256.13 crore has been released to the State Government of Odisha from 1993-94 till date including Rs. 45.33 crore for the current Financial Year 2024-25. Further releases to the State will be made as per the extant guidelines of the scheme and the demand for ongoing and upcoming projects.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3560

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.03.2025

Recommendation for Transfer of Judges in High Courts

3560. Shri Matheswaran V S:

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

(a) whether some Judges recommended by Supreme Court Collegium for transfer from one High Court to another in the recent past have written to Government to hold the transfer, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the list of transfer of High Court Judges recommended by Supreme Court Collegium pending with the Government for more than six months; and

(c) whether the Government is notifying the transfer as it has minimal role in transfer of High 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) to (c): As per the Memorandum of Procedure(MoP) for appointment and transfer of High Court Judges, the proposal for transfer of High Court Judges is initiated by the Chief Justice of India in consultation with four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court. The MoP further provides that the Chief Justice of India is also expected to take into account the views of the Chief Justice of High Court from which the judge is to be transferred, as also the

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3565
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

MOUNTING CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

3565. SHRI RAJA A:

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

(a) whether any study/analysis has been conducted to go into the causes of mounting cases in the lower courts to Supreme Court, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has ensured that all vacancies of judicial officers are filled up in various courts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to decongest cases in the various courts, including holding of Lok Adalats, compounding fees and levying heavy fines on frivolous proceedings; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose of long pending cases in various courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) As per information provided by Supreme Court of India, there is no one conspicuous reason for pendency of cases. It is a multi-faceted situation. However, with the increase in population of the country, ease of access and awareness amongst public, usage of technology etc., the filing of fresh cases, is continuously increasing year after year, with the number of Judges and Courts remaining same. Therefore, the prime reason for pendency of the cases is inadequate Judge/Population ratio in the country and also the insufficient strength of Hon'ble

Judges. The pandemic which set in around 2020 has also contributed significantly in increasing the pendency.

(b): The appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous and collaborative process between the executive and judiciary, requiring consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities at both State and Central levels.

Judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution. As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the Chief Justice of India initiates proposals for Supreme Court appointments, while the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges, initiates High Court appointments. The recommendations in regard to appointment of High Court Judges undergo multiple levels of scrutiny, including inputs from the State Government and other relevant reports, before being forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Since May 2014, 66 Judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, and 1,024 Judges to various High Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts, following timelines set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its January 2007 order in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

(c) & (d): Disposal of pending cases in a time bound manner is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa

Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iv. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 06.03.2025, 66 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1024 new Judges were appointed and 788 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to

clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.01.2025, 860 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 31.01.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases.

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

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendment to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break U	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break U
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place

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

xi. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as deems fit, Lok Adalats are one of the effective modes of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism in reducing the burden on the courts, which have received positive response from the public. There are three types of Lok Adalats namely State Lok Adalats, National Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats, as under:

i. State Lok Adalats are organized by the Legal Services Authorities/Committees as per the local conditions and needs, for settlement of both pre-litigation and post-litigation cases.

ii. National Lok Adalats are conducted quarterly for settlement of cases (both pre-litigation and post-litigation) in all the courts from the Supreme Court of India to the Taluk Courts on a single day. Every year, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats. During the year 2025, National Lok Adalats are scheduled to be held on 8th March, 10th May, 13th September and 13th December.

iii. Permanent Lok Adalats are permanent establishments set up in most of the Districts to provide compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for settlement of disputes related to Public Utility Services.

The National and State Lok Adalats are not a permanent establishment and handle pending court cases as referred to it by the respective courts. Since these Lok Adalats are not permanent in nature, all unsettled cases, are reverted to the

respective courts and hence do not remain pending with these Lok Adalats. The details of the number of cases disposed of by the Lok Adalats during the last two years and current year are as follows:

(i) State Lok Adalat

Year	Total cases settled (both pre-litigative and pending cases)
2022-23	8,51,309
2023-24	12,07,103
2024-25 (upto Dec., 24)	12,08,227

(ii) National Lok Adalat

Year	Total cases settled (both pre-litigative and pending cases)
2022	4,19,26,010
2023	8,53,42,217
2024	10,45,26,119

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services)

Year	Total cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25 (upto Dec., 24)	1,61,277

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3569
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

Judl. Section (LA)

National Litigation Policy

3569. Shri Sudama Prasad:

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

(a) whether the Government intends to introduce the National Litigation Policy (NLP) as part of its judicial reform, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any assessment on the issue that the Government litigation contributes to judicial backlog, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of time-bound action plans for implementation of the National Litigation Policy?

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)

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(a) and (c) A final decision on National Litigation Policy has not yet been made.

(b) The Ministry has not conducted a specific assessment regarding the impact of government litigation on judicial backlog. However, it has developed the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS), a web-based portal designed to effectively

monitor court cases involving the Union of India. According to data from the LIMBS portal, which is updated by 53 user Ministries/Departments, the number of cases across various Courts/Tribunals in which the Union of India is a party is as follows:

COURT WISE PENDING CASES AS ON MARCH 18, 2025	
Supreme Court	19,442
High Court	2,68,645
Tribunals	2,80,650
Lower Court	1,58,164
Total	7,26,901

Additionally, data from the National Judicial Data Grid indicates that there are over 5 crore pending cases across different Courts/Tribunals in the country. Therefore, government litigation may not be considered a major contributor to the judicial backlog.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3572
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN JUDICIARY

3572. SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:

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

(a) whether the Government has data on the representation of women in the legal profession and in the judiciary services including breakdowns by rank, appointment type, region and trends observed during the last ten years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of policy measures and initiatives being implemented to address systemic discrimination against women in the legal field and judicial services, particularly in relation to recruitment, retention and promotion practices?

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): Data regarding the representation of women in the legal profession and the judiciary, including breakdowns by rank, appointment type, region, and trends over the last ten years, are maintained by relevant authorities such as the Bar Council of India, State Bar Councils, and the judiciary at various levels.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. However, Chief Justices of High Courts have been requested 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.

Since 2014 till date 06 women judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 162 women Judges have been appointed in the High Courts. As on 18.03.2025, there are 02 women Judges working in the Supreme Court and 110 women Judges in High Courts. As on 28.02.2025, there are 7,852 women Judges working in District and Subordinate Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts, following timelines set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its January 2007 order in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

(b): Policy measures and initiatives relating to addressing the issues of systematic discrimination against women in the legal field particularly in relation to recruitment, retention and promotion vest in the domain of the judiciary and the Bar Councils. However, several initiatives have been undertaken by these institutions to promote gender inclusivity and support women in the legal field, as outlined below:

- The Supreme Court of India and various High Courts have implemented special facilities to support women lawyers. The Supreme Court provides dedicated restrooms, waiting areas, and lounges exclusively for women lawyers.
- A notable facility is the establishment of a crèche (childcare centre) within the court premises to assist women advocates with young children, along with enhanced security measures such as surveillance systems to ensure safety within the court complex.
- Similarly, various High Courts across the country have introduced facilities tailored to the needs of women lawyers. Some High Courts have separate

women's bar associations or committees focused on gender-specific concerns, along with exclusive restrooms, lounges, and changing rooms for female advocates.

- Additionally, many High Courts have improved security through better lighting, CCTV surveillance, and the presence of security personnel, particularly in areas frequented by women lawyers. Courts also conduct gender-sensitization programs and workshops to create awareness about legal rights and workplace safety for women in the legal profession.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice through the Department of Legal Affairs administers the Advocates Act, 1961. The Act does not contain special provisions for women, as all classes of advocates are treated equally under the law. However, several State Bar Councils and Bar Associations have introduced schemes to support women advocates, including financial assistance.
- Furthermore, the Bar Council of India (BCI) has directed State Bar Councils to ensure that at least 25% of the members in various Disciplinary and other Committees of the Bar Council are women. This directive aims to enhance women's representation in key decision-making bodies within the legal fraternity, promoting equity and diversity.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3574

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH,2025

Allotment of Land for SDM Court in Rajasthan

3574. Shri Rajkumar Roat:

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

(a) the details of land allotted to the approved Sub-Divisional (upkhand) Magistrate Court Chikhli by the Government of Rajasthan in Dungarpur district during the financial year 2023-24;

(b) the date on which financial approval has been issued along with the amount of funds approved;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction work of the said court has not yet started and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a demand has been made for the operation of a camp court till the court building is constructed and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Union Government is likely to intervene in this matter and help in starting the construction work of the Sub-Divisional Court Chikhli?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e) : As per information provided by the Department of Revenue, Government of Rajasthan, there has been no

announcement in the budget year 2023, in respect of Sub-Divisional (Upkhand) Magistrate Court, Chikhli, District Dungarpur, Rajasthan. However, in the budget year 2014-15, an amount of Rs.199.76 lakhs was approved for the construction of Sub Divisional office building at Chikhli, Dungarpur. A piece of land measuring 0.8090 ha was allotted for the same. The construction of the building was completed in the year 2016-17 and the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate Court has been functioning from the premises since the year 2020.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3585
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 21/03/2025

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

3585. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) the details of the public response towards the National Lok Adalat initiative;

(b) whether the said initiative had a measurable impact on reducing case backlogs in the judiciary, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of additional reforms being considered to further enhance the efficiency and outreach of the Lok Adalat system?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): 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 one of the effective modes of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism in reducing the burden on the courts, which have received positive response from the public. There are three types of Lok Adalats namely State Lok Adalats, National Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats, as per the following details:

i. State Lok Adalats are organized by the Legal Services Authorities/Committees as per the local conditions and needs, for settlement of both pre-litigation and post-litigation cases.

ii. National Lok Adalats are conducted quarterly for settlement of cases (both pre-litigation and post-litigation) in all the courts from the Supreme Court of India to the Taluk Courts on a single day. Every year, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats.

During the year 2025, National Lok Adalat was held on 8th March. National Lok Adalats are further scheduled to be held on 10th May, 13th September and 13th December of 2025.

iii. Permanent Lok Adalats are permanent establishments set up in most of the Districts to provide compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for settlement of disputes related to Public Utility Services.

(b): The National and State Lok Adalats are not a permanent establishment and handle pending court cases as referred to it by the respective courts. Since these Lok Adalats are not permanent in nature, all unsettled cases, are reverted to the respective courts and hence do not remain pending with these Lok Adalats. The details of the number of cases disposed of by the Lok Adalats during the last two years and current year (upto December) are as follows:

(i) National Lok Adalat

Year	Total cases settled (both pre-litigative and pending cases)
2022	4,19,26,010
2023	8,53,42,217
2024	10,45,26,119

(ii) State Lok Adalat

Year	Total cases settled (both pre-litigative and pending cases)
2022-23	8,51,309
2023-24	12,07,103
2024-25	12,08,227

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services)

Year	Total cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25	1,61,277

(c): To improve the efficiency and accessibility of Lok Adalats, E-Lok Adalat was conceptualized during Covid which significantly improved access to justice for people who were otherwise unable to participate in the Lok Adalats. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs, wherein 10.30 crore cases were taken up out of which 1.15 crore cases were disposed of.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3591
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2025

Strengthening e-Court System

3591. Shri Adhikari Soumendu:

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

(a) whether the Government is strengthening the e-Court system, including digital case management and online services, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of implementation status of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for judicial infrastructure and its fund-sharing pattern with States; and
(c) whether the Government is taking initiatives to augment software for case management, use of AI, public legal education and citizen feedback mechanism, 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): With an outlay of Rs.7210 Cr for the eCourts Project, Phase III, the Government's resolve to strengthen the eCourts system across the country is very much evident. Under this initiative, several steps have been taken to improve the court management processes and digitise the services for the various stakeholders, such as, lawyers, litigants, judges and others.

Under the digital case management system, eFiling system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7. ePayment system has been launched for hassle free transfer of fee, etc. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled

process serving and issuing of summons. Besides, a Judgment Search portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, etc. This facility is being provided free of cost to all. To facilitate easy and hassle-free access to citizen-centric services, 1610 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) have been established across India. 28 Virtual Courts are functioning across 21 States/UTs for trying traffic related offences. Apart from this, as part of eCourts services, 7 platforms have been created to provide information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/ litigants through SMS Push and Pull, Email, multilingual eCourts services Portal, JSC (Judicial Service centres), Info Kiosks, eCourts Mobile App for lawyers/litigants (2.87 crore downloads till date) and JustIS App for judges (21,105 downloads till date). To bring in greater objectivity, consistency, transparency and speed, Case Information System (CIS) version 4.0 software has been implemented across the district and taluka courts across the country.As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) based tools are being deployed in case management. They are being used in transcribing of oral arguments in Constitution Bench matters. The AI assisted transcribed arguments can be accessed from the website of the Supreme Court.Supreme Court of India is also testing prototypes of AI and machine learning (ML) tools, for curing defects, data, meta data extraction in collaboration with IIT, Madras. This AI and ML based tool will be integrated with the electronic filing module and the case management software, namely, Integrated Case Management & Information System (ICMIS).

The Central Government has been supplementing the resources of the State/UT Governments, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Judicial Infrastructure of the District and Subordinate Judiciary, wherein financial assistance is provided in the prescribed fund sharing ratio to the States/UTs for the development of five components namely, court halls and residential units for judicial officers, lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital

computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Since the inception of the scheme, in the year 1993-94 till date, a sum of Rs.11,885.29 Cr has been released. As on 28.02.2025, 22,062 court halls and 19,775 residential units are available in the district and subordinate courts. Another, 3,206 Court Halls and 2,639 residential units are currently under construction.

In accordance with the guidelines of the Department of Expenditure, the fund sharing under the CSS is applicable in the ratio of 60:40 between Centre and the States, except North Eastern States and the two Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the ratio of 90:10 applies. For Union Territories 100% Central Assistance is made available without the fund sharing requirement.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3592
ANSWERED ON – 21/03/2025

FAST TRACK COURT

†3592. **Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant:**

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

(a) the details in respect of establishment and functioning of Fast Track Courts/New Fast Track Courts in the country indicating the number of pending cases across the country, during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
(b) the total amount of funds allocated and utilized for the establishment of these Courts during the said period;
(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds to the States for the establishment of such Courts and appointment of more number of Judges, if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the efficiency of Fast Track Courts as compared to regular Courts; 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): Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and their functioning falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts. Allocation of funds for such courts is required to be done by the State Governments as per their need and resources. The 14th Finance Commission set up by the Government of India had recommended the setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had urged upon the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State/UT Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs from the

Financial Year 2015-16 onward. In this regard, the State/UT Governments have set up 860 FTCs as on 31.01.2025. The State/UT-wise details of number of FTCs made functional during last three years and the current year along with the pendency as of January, 2025 are at **Annexure -I.** The Union Government has repeatedly urged the State/UT Governments since 2015-16 onwards to set up more FTCs to achieve the target. The setting up of more FTCs has also featured as one of the agenda items in the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. No central assistance is being provided for setting up of Fast Track Courts.

As per Article 233 of the Constitution of India, the selection and appointment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the purview of the Governor of the respective State, in consultation with the High Court having jurisdiction over that State. The Central Government has no direct role in the selection, recruitment and appointment of judicial officers in the District/ Subordinate Judiciary level including, Fast Track Courts (FTCs). The details of vacancies of judges and other categories of officials in FTCs are not maintained at the central level.

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

The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts. The financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as central share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.01.2025. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO courts, are at **Annexure-II.**

A sum of ₹ 1034.55 Crore has been released to the States/UTs since its inception to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts, which includes Rs. 200.00 Crore released in the current F.Y. 2024-25. The funds are released on CSS Pattern (60:40, 90:10) and cover the salaries of one Judicial Officer, seven support staff, and a flexi grant to cover day-to-day expenditures. The funds are released to the States/UTs on a reimbursement basis, determined by the number of functional courts in the State/UT concerned.

(d) & (e): Considering the paramount importance of the safety and security of women and children, the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) Scheme was extended with the approval of the

competent authority for a further period from 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026. As one of the pre-conditions to this extension, a third-party evaluation was conducted in 2023 by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

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ANNEXURE- I

State/UT-wise status of functional Fast Track Courts during the last three years and the current year along with the pendency as of January, 2025

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Functional FTC				Pendency as on 31/01/2025
		As on 31/12/2022	As on 31/12/2023	As on 31/12/2024	As on 31/01/2025	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	22	21	21	7089
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	16	15	15	16	12699
5.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	23	23	27	25	4701
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	10	27	26	26	6814
10.	Goa	4	6	4	4	1765
11.	Gujarat	54	54	54	54	5693
12.	Haryana	6	6	6	6	807
13.	Himachal Pradesh	3	3	3	3	351
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	8	8	8	1464
15.	Jharkhand	34	36	40	39	8249
16.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
21.	Maharashtra	111	95	101	100	174556
22.	Manipur	6	6	6	6	226
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	2	2	2	2	268
25.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Puducherry	0	0	1	1	3065
28.	Punjab	7	7	7	7	141
29.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Sikkim	2	2	2	2	16
31.	Tamil Nadu	73	72	72	72	78855
32.	Telangana	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Tripura	3	3	3	3	1342
34.	Uttar Pradesh	372	372	373	373	1082109
35.	Uttarakhand	7	4	4	4	1066
36.	West Bengal	88	88	88	88	84409
	TOTAL	**848**	**851**	**863**	**860**	**1475685**

ANNEXURE- II

State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO courts (As on 31.01.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	46	46
4	Chandigarh	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6	Delhi	16	11
7	Goa	1	0
8	Gujarat	35	24
9	Haryana	16	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Jharkhand	22	16
13	Karnataka	30	17
14	Kerala	55	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	56
16	Maharashtra	4	1
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	6	6
31	A&N Islands**	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0
	TOTAL	**745**	**404**

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3622
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21st MARCH, 2025

GRAM NYAYALAYAS

3622. SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

(a) the details of Gram Nyayalayas set up in country, State and district-wise;

(b) whether setting up of Gram Nyayalayas in every Panchayat under Gram Nyayalayas Act is mandatory, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the said provision, States have not shown enough interest in setting up Gram Nyayalayas in Panchayats, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons behind States not coming forward in spite of the Central Government releasing funds for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas and also meeting recurring expenditure?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information made available by the State Governments/High Courts, 488 Gram Nyayalayas have been notified so far by 15 States/UTs. Out of these, 320 Gram Nyayalayas are operational in 11 States at present. The State-wise details of notified and operational, Gram Nyayalayas are as under:

Statewise Statement of Notified and Operational Gram Nyayalayas as on 28.02.2025			
Sl. No.	State	Gram Nyayalayas Notified	Gram Nyayalayas Functional
1.	Madhya Pradesh	89	89
2.	Rajasthan	45	45
3.	Karnataka	2	2
4.	Odisha	31	21
5.	Maharashtra	39	26
6.	Jharkhand	6	1
7.	Goa	2	2
8.	Punjab	9	2
9.	Haryana	3	2
10.	Uttar Pradesh	113	100
11.	Kerala	30	30
12.	Andhra Pradesh	4	0
13.	Telangana	55	0
14.	Jammu Kashmir	20	0
15.	Ladakh	2	0
	Total	488	320

The District -wise list of operational/functional, Gram Nyayalayas are at Annexure.

(b) to (d): Section 3(1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act,2008 mandates that the State Governments, after consultation with their respective High Courts, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayat at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats.

Studies have brought to light several factors behind the lack of enthusiasm shown by the States in setting up of requisite number of Gram Nyayalayas , such as, non -filling up of the post of Nyayadhikaris 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. Lack of suitable infrastructure is also cited as one of the reasons. 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 system of village courts functioning at Panchayat level. The Gram Nyayalayas Act,2008, does not make establishment of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory for the State Governments.

*****

ANNEXURE

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
Uttar Pradesh (100)				
1		Agra	Bah	Bah
2		Agra	Etmadpur	Etmadpur
3		Agra	Kirawali	Kirawali
4		Agra	Kheragarh	Kheragarh
5		Aligarh	Ghabana	Ghabana
6		Allahabad	Meja	Meja
7		Allahabad	Phoolpur	Phoolpur
8		Allahabad	Handiya	Handiya
9		Azamgarh	Mehnagar	Mehnagar
10		Azamgarh	Lalganj	Lalganj
11		Azamgarh	Phoolpur	Phoolpur
12		Azamgarh	Budhanpur	Budhanpur
13		Amroha	Dhanaura	Dhanaura
14		Bagpat	Baraut	Baraut
15		Bahraich	Nanpara	Nanpara
16		Bahraich	Mahsi	Mahsi
17		Ballia	Sikandarpur	Sikandarpur
18		Balrampur	Tulsipur	Tulsipur
19		Banda	Naraini	Naraini
20		Barabanki	Ram Nagar	Ram Nagar
21		Barabanki	Sirauli Gauspur	Sirauli Gauspur
22		Barabanki	Fatehpur	Fatehpur
23		Bijnor	Dhampur	Dhampur
24		Badaun	Bilsi	Bilsi
25		Bulandshahr	Siyana	Siyana
26		Bulandshahr	Dibai	Dibai
27		Basti	Harraiya	Harraiya
28		Basti	Rudhauli	Rudhauli
29		Basti	Bhanpur	Bhanpur
30		Chitrakoot	Manikpur	Manikpur
31		Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Nagar	Gauriganj	Gauriganj
32		Deoria	Salempur	Salempur
33		Deoria	Barhaj	Barhaj
34		Deoria	Bhatparrani	Bhatparrani
35		Etah	Aliganj	Aliganj
36		Etawah	Saifai	Saifai
37		Etawah	Chakranagar	Chakranagar
38		Fatehpur	Bindki	Bindki
39		Faizabad	Radauli	Radauli
40		Faizabad	Bikapur	Bikapur
41		Faizabad	Milkipur	Milkipur
42		Farukhabad	Amritpur	Amritpur
43		Firozabad	Jasrana	Jasrana
44		Firozabad	Tundla	Tundla
45		Farrukhabad	Amritpur	Amritpur
46		Ghaziabad	Modinagar	Modinagar
47		Ghazipur	Jakhania	Jakhania
48		Gorakhpur	Chauri Chaura	Chauri Chaura
49		Gorakhpur	Campierganj	Campierganj
50	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Gola	Gola
51		Gonda	Mankapur	Mankapur
52		Gonda	Tarabganj	Tarabganj
53		Gonda	Colonelganj	Colonelganj
54		Hamirpur	Sarila	Sarila
55		Hardoi	Sandila	Sandila

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
56		Panchsheel Nagar district (Hapur)	Dhaulana	Dhaulana
57		Jalaun at Orai	Madhogarh	Madhogarh
58		Jaunpur	Shahganj	Shahganj
59		Jaunpur	Kerakat	Kerakat
60		Jaunpur	Machhlishahr	Machhlishahr
61		Jaunpur	Badlapur	Badlapur
62		Jyotiba Phule Nagar	Dhanaura	Dhanaura
63		Jhansi	Tehrauli	Tehrauli
64		Kannauj	Tirwa	Tirwa
65		Kanpur Dehat	Bilhaur	Bilhaur
66		Kanshi Ram Nagar	Patiyali	Patiyali
67		Kaushambi	Chail	Chail
68		Kushinagar	Tamkuhiraj	Tamkuhiraj
69		Kushinagar	Hata	Hata
70		Lalitpur	Talbehat	Talbehat
71		Lakhimpur Kheri	Gola	Gola
72		Maharajganj	Nautanwan	Nautanwan
73		Maharajganj	Nichlaual	Nichlaual
74		Mainpuri	Karhal	Karhal
75		Mathura	Mant	Mant
76		Mau	Madhuban	Madhuban
77		Mirzapur	Marihaan	Marihaan
78		Mirzapur	Lalganj	Lalganj
79		Moradabad	Bilari	Bilari
80		Moradabad	Kanth	Kanth
81		Muzaffer Nagar	Khatauli	Khatauli
82		Pilibhit	Pooranpur	Pooranpur
83		Pratapgarh	Patti	Patti
84		Raebareli	Lalganj	Lalganj
85		Raebareli	Salon	Salon
86		Raebareli	Unchahar	Unchahar
87		Rampur	Bilaspur	Bilaspur
88		Rampur	Shahabad	Shahabad
89		Rampur	Swar	Swar
90		Saharanpur	Behat	Behat
91		Saharanpur	Itwa	Itwa
92		Shravasti at Bhinga	Ikauna	Ikauna
93		Sitapur	Laharpur	Laharpur
94		Sitapur	Sidhauli	Sidhauli
95		Sonabhadra	Ghorawal	Ghorawal
96		Sultanpur	Amethi	Amethi
97		Unnao	Hasangaj	Hasangaj
98		Unnao	Bighapur	Bighapur
99		Varanasi	Pindara	Pindara
100		Sant Kabir Nagar	Meinhdawal	Meinhdawal
Punjab (2)				
101	Punjab	Rupnagar	Nangal	Nangal
102		Moga	Kot Isse Khan	Kot Isse Khan
Kerala (30)				
103		Kollam	Kottarakkara	Chadaya-mangalam
104		Kollam	Kollam	Perinadu
105		Kollam	Karunagappally	Chavara
106		Idukki	Idukki	Kattappana
107		Idukki	Peermade	Peermade
108		Idukki	Udumbanchola	Kalkoonthal
109		Thiruvananthapuram	Neyyattinkara	Parassala
110		Thiruvananthapuram	Nedumangad	Vellandu

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
111	Kerala	Pathanamthitta	Ranni	Ranni
112		Pathanamthitta	Adoor	Pandalam
113		Kottayam	Vaikom	Vadekumari
114		Kottayam	Kottyam	Anicadu
115		Alappuzha	Ambalappuzha	Punnapra
116		Alappuzha	Cherthala	Kanjikuzhy
117		Ernakulam	Kunnathunadu	Aikkaranadu North
118		Ernakulam	North Paravur	Chendamangalam
119		Trissur	Thalappilly	Vadakkethara
120		Trissur	Kodungallur	Eriyad
121		Palakkad	Ottapalam	Sreekrishnapuram
122		Palakkad	Palakkad	Puduppariyaram
123		Palakkad	Alathur	Thenkurissi
124		Kozhikkode	Thamassery	Raroth
125		Kozhikkode	Vatakara	Kuttiady
126		Malappuram	Ponnani	Edappal
127		Malappuram	Perinthalmanna	Pulamanthole
128		Wayanad	Vythiri	Kalpetta
129		Kannur	Taliparamba	Irikkur
130		Kannur	Iritty	Payam
131		Kannur	Thalassery	Chokli
132		Kasaragod	Vellarikund	Bheemanadi
Maharashtra (26)				
133	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar	Parner	Ralegan Siddhi
134		Dhule	Sakri (Nijampur)	Nizampur
135		Gondia	Goregaon	Goregaon
136		Gondia	Sakekasa	Sakekasa
137		Gadchiroli	Korchi	Korchi
138		Gadchiroli	Mulchera	Mulchera
139		Latur	Udgir	Jalkot
140		Latur	Nilanga	Shirur Anantpal
141		Nanded	Tamsa, Tal. Hadgaon	Tamsa
142		Nasik	Deola	Deola
143		Nasik	Trimbakeshwar	Trimbakeshwar
144		Nasik	Harsul	Harsul
145		Pune	Kadam Wak Vasti	Kadam Wak Vasti (Loni Kalbhor)
146		Pune	Male (Tal Mulshi)	Male
147		Pune	Velhe	Velha
148		Raigarh	Birwadi (Mahad),	Birwadi (Mahad),
149		Raigad	Tala	Tala
150		Raigad	Poladpur	Poladpur
151		Ratnagiri	Pali	Pali
152		Sangli	Jath	Sankh
153		Sindhudurg	Vaibhavwadi	Vaibhavwadi
154		Thane	Jawahar	Vikramgad and Mokhada
155		Wardha	Wardha	Sewagram
156		Wardha	Wardha	Alipur
157		Wardha	Hinganghat	Deoli
158		Kolhapur	Gaganbawada	Gaganbawada
Rajasthan (45)				
159	Rajasthan	Ajmer	Pushkar	Pisangan
160		Alwar	Tijara	Tijara
161		Alwar	Neemrana	Neemrana
162		Balotra	Barmer	Barmer
163		Baran	Atru	Atru
164		Banswara	Talwara	Talwara
165		Banswara	Garhi	Garhi
166		Bharatpur	Roopwas	Roopwas

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
167		Bharatpur	Kaman	Kaman
168		Bhilwara	Mandal	Mandal
169		Bhilwara	Suwana	Suwana
170		Bikaner	Bikaner	Bikaner
171		Bikaner	Kolayat	Kolayat
172		Bundi	Talera	Talera
173		Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh
174		Chittorgarh	Bhadesar	Bhadesar
175		Churu	Rajgarh	Rajgarh
176		Dausa	Dausa	Dausa
177		Dholpur	Baseri	Baseri
178		Dungarpur	Aaspur	Aaspur
179		Dungarpur	Bichhiwara	Bichhiwara
180		Ganganagar	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar
181	Rajasthan	Ganganagar	Anoopgarh	Anoopgarh
182		Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
183		Jaipur	Sambhariake	Sambharlake
184		Jaipur Metro1	Bassi	Bassi
185		Jalore	Sanchore	Sanchore
186		Jaisalmer	Pokaran	Sankda Hq. Pokaran
187		Jhalawar	Jhalrapatan	Jhalrapatan
188		Jhunjhunu	Nawalgarh	Nawalgarh
189		Jodhpur Metro	Jodhpur	Mandore
190		Jodhpur	Osian	Osian
191		Karauli	Hindaun city	Hindaun city
192		Kota	Ramganjmandi	Kherabad
193		Kota	Itawa	Itawa
194		Merta (Nagaur)	Jayal	Jayal
195		Pali	Raipur	Raipur
196		Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh
197		Rajsamand	Railmagra	Railmagra
198		S.Madhopur	Gangapurcity	Gangapurcity
199		Sikar	Sikar	Kudli Hq. Sikar
200		Sirohi	Pindwara	Pindwara
201		Tonk	Deoli	Deoli
202		Udaipur	Girwa	Girwa
203		Udaipur	Kherwara	Kherwara
Odisha (21)				
204		Puri	Puri Sadar	Puri
205		Malkangiri	Korukunda	Korukunda
206		Bhadrak	Dhamnagar	Dhamnagar
207		Kalahandi	Junagarh	Junagarh
208		Kendujhar	Ananadpur	Ghasipura
209		Kendrapara	Rajnagar	Rajnagar
210		Koraput	Semilguda	Semilguda
211		Rayagada	Kolnara	Kolnara
212		Jharsuguda	Lakhanpur	Lakhanpur
213		Ganjam	Sanakhemundi	Sanakhemundi
214	Odisha	Nayagarh	Odagaon	Odagaon
215		Bargarh	Attabira	Attabira
216		Khordha	Tangi	Tangi
217		Nuapada	Komna	Komna
218		Nabarangpur	Raighar	Rajghar
219		Balasore	Bhograi	Jaleswarpur
220		Subarapur	Dunguripali	Dunguripali
221		Gajapati	Kashinagar	Kashinagar
222		Jagatsinghpur	Raghunathpur	Raghunathpur
223		Jajpur	Sukinda	Sukinda

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
224		Puri	Brahmagiri	Brahmagiri
Jharkhand (1)				
225	Jharkhand	Koderma	Jhumri Talaiya	Jhumri Talaiya
Karnataka (2)				
226	Karnataka	Chikkaballapur	Gowribidaur	Hosru
227		Chikkaballapur	Chikkaballapur	Mandikal
Madhya Pradesh (39)				
228	Madhya Pradesh	Alirajpur	Jobat	jobat,udaigardh
229		Anuppur	Kotma	Semra, Nigwani
230		Ashoknagar	Chanderi	Dungasara, Pranpur
231		Barwani	Sendhwa	Sendhwa
232		Betul	Multai	Multai
233		Bhind	Lahar	Bhatpura, Chiroli
234		Bhopal	Berasiya	Berasiya
235		Chhatarpur	Bijawar	Bijawar
236		Chhindwara	Pandhurna	Pandhurna
237		Damoh	Hatta	Hatta
238		Datia	Seodha	Seodha
239		Dewas	Kannod	Kannod
240		Dhar	Manawar	Manawar, Singhana, Umarban
241		Guna	Chachoda	All Village under Chachoda
242		Gwalior	Dabra	Dabra
243		Hoshangabad	Sohagpur	Shobhapur, Semri Harchand
244		Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	Tigariya, Dolariya, Raipur, Panjra Kalan, Andhyari
245		Jabalpur	Patan	Patan
246		Jhabua	Thandla	Thandla
247		Mandsaur	Garoth	Garoth
248		Morena	Ambah	Ambah
249		Narsinghpur	Gadarwara	Gadarwara
250		Neemuch	Manasa	Manasa
251		Panna	Pawai	Pawai
252		Raisen	Civil Court Bareli	Bareli
253		Raisen	Sanchi	Sanchi
254		Rajgarh	Biora	Biaora
255		Ratlam	Jaora	Jaora
256		Rewa	Sirmaur	Sirmaur , Lal Gaon, Karmai, Shahpur
257		Sagar	Khurai	Khurai
258		Satna	Nagod	Nagod
259		Sehore	Budni	REHTI, BUDNI, SHAHGANJ
260		Seoni	Lakhnadon	LAKHNADON, AADEGAON, DHANORA
261		Shahdol	Jisinghnagar	Jaisinghnagar, Amjhor, tetka
262		Shajapur	Agar-Malwa	Agar
263		Shivpuri	Karera	Karera
264		Sidhi	Majholi	Majhouli, Tala, Madwas, Pathraula
265		Balaghat	Balaghat	Balaghat
266		Tikamgarh	Niwari	Niwari
267		Ujjain	Mahidpur	Mahidpur
268		Vidisha	Vidisha	AHMADPUR, KHAMKHEDA, DEVKHAJURI
269		Khargone	Bhikangaon	Bhikangaon
270		Alirajpur	Alirajpur	Alirajpur
271		Anuppur	Anuppur	Foonga, Deohara, Papraudi, Sakara, Paraswar
272		Ashoknagar	Ashoknagar	Shadora, Kachnar
273		Betul	Betul	Betul
274		Bhind	Bhind	Umari, Nayagaon, Manpura, Phoop
275		Bhopal	Bhopal	Bhopal

Opertional/Functional Gram Nyayalyas (District/ Taluka Wise) as on 28.02.2025				
Sl. No.	State	District	Taluk	Village
276		Burhanpur	Burhanpur	Burhanpur
277		Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur	Chhatarpur
278		Chhindwara	Chhindwara	Chhindwara
279		Damoh	Damoh	Damoh
280		Datia	Datia	Datia
281		Dewas	Dewas	VIJAYGANJ MANDI, BAROTHA, SIYA, KHATAMBA, KSHIPRA,
282		Dhar	Dhar	Tirrla
283		Dindori	Dindori	Dindori
284		Khandwa	Khandwa	Khandwa
285		Guna	Guna	All Village under Guna
286		Gwalior	Gwalior	GHATIGAON
287		Harda	Harda	Harda
288		Indore	Indore	Indore
289		Jabalpur	Jabalpur	Jabalpur
290		Jhabua	Jhabua	Jhabua
291		Katni	Katni	Katni
292		Mandla	Mandla	Mandla
293		Mandsaur	Mandsaur	Dlauda
294		Morena	Morena	Morena
295		Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur	Narsinghpur
296		Neemuch	Neemuch	Neemuch
297		Panna	Panna	Panna
298		Raisen	Raisen	
299		Rajgarh	Rajgarh	Rajgarh
300		Ratlam	Ratlam	Ratlam
301		Rewa	Huzur	Bansa, Agdal, Bahuri Bandh, Sagra, Khaur,Padokhar,
302		Sagar	Sagar	Sagar
303		Satna	Satna	Satna
304		Sehore	Sehore	AHMEDPUR, DORAHA, SHYAMPUR, BILKISGANJ, NAPLAKHEDI
305		Seoni	Seoni	GOPALGANJ, BANDOL, BHOMA, LAKHNANWADA
306		Shahdol	Sohagpur	Singhpur, Gohparu
307		Shajapur	Shajapur	Shajapur
308		Sheopur	Sheopur	Sheopur
309		Shivpuri	Shivpuri	Shivpuri
310		Sidhi	Sidhi	Gopadbans
311		Tikamgarh	Tikamgarh	Janpad Panchayat Tikamgarh
312		Ujjain	Ujjain	Ujjain
313		Umaria	Nowrozabad	Karkeli
314		Vidisha	Sironj	SIRONJ PATHARIYA DIPNAKHEDA MUGALSARAI
315		Singrauli	Waidhan	mada, waidhan, rajmilan, khutar
316		Khargone	Mandleshwar	Mandleshwar
Haryana (2)				
317	Haryana	Kurukshetra	Ladwa	Ladwa
318		Sirsa	Rania	Rania
Goa (2)				
319	Goa	Panji	Sattari	Sattari
320		Goa	Sanguem	Sanguem

Source : Gram Nyayalaya Portal

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3641

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21.03.2025

Recommendation of Madras High Court

3641. Km. Sudha R:

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

(a) whether number of candidates recommended by the Madras High Court collegium, approved and forwarded to the Union Government by the Supreme Court collegium, have been kept pending without appointment since 2014;
(b) if so, the reasons for holding up the appointment of each candidate despite the completion of all constitutional requirements by the Madras high court and the Supreme Court;
(c)the details of candidates kept pending by the Union Government after high courts concerned and the Supreme Court collegium cleared them and forwarded them for appointment since 2014, High Court-wise;
(d) the details of vacancies against the sanctioned strength of judges in each High Court; and
(e) the details of lists of the candidates pending with the Union Government for appointment as judges, High Court-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e) :Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made 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. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is hardly adhered to by the High Courts. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts. Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. Hence, the time needed for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the High Courts cannot be indicated.

As on 17.03.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 75 in Madras High Court, 65 Judges are working. 03 proposals for appointment as Judges of the Madras High Court are under process.

As on 17.03.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges in the High Courts, 766 Judges are working. Recommendations against 188 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. The High Court wise vacancy position is at Annexure.

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ANNEXURE

Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in High Courts (As on 17.03.2025) :

A	High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	79	81
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	30	7
3	Bombay	94	66	28
4	Calcutta	72	46	26
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	6
6	Delhi	60	39	21
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	32	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15	10
11	Jharkhand	25	16	9
12	Karnataka	62	50	12
13	Kerala	47	44	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	34	19
15	Madras	75	65	10
16	Manipur	5	4	1
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	18	15
19	Patna	53	37	16
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	53	32
21	Rajasthan	50	34	16
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	30	12
24	Tripura	5	5	0
25	Uttarakhand	11	9	2
	Total	**1122**	**766**	**356**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

Tele-Law Scheme

*3650. Shri Devesh Shakya:

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

(a) the number and details of the people provided legal aid under the Tele-Law Scheme in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh till February 2025;

(b) whether the Government has provided training to panel lawyers and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) for effective implementation of the said scheme, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(c) whether the residents of Etah, Kasganj, Mainpuri, Auraiya and Kannauj districts of Uttar Pradesh have benefited from this scheme during the last three years 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) Tele-Law program is one of the major components of DISHA (Designing Innovative solution for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme through which the beneficiaries are provided with pre-litigation advice by connecting them with panel lawyers through digital technology. The details of the beneficiaries served in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh till February, 2025 are as under: -

	Uttar Pradesh			Bihar			Total
Financial Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
2021-2022	92764	48781	141545	34537	30978	65515	207060
2022-2023	181121	164898	346019	62186	47161	109347	455366
2023-2024	453441	308449	761890	104852	116080	220932	982822
2024-2025	300673	294499	595172	59769	111771	171540	766712

(b) Regular trainings are organized for the Panel Lawyers and Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) associated with Tele-Law program for their orientation across the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. While the training for panel lawyers is primarily focused on the nature of legal counselling and advisory services that is rendered to citizens, the Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) are being trained on the use of Tele-Law digital platform, mobile application, Toll-Free number and spreading awareness among the citizens. The details of training conducted during the current financial year are at **Annexure 'A'**.

(c) The details of residents of Etah, Kasganj, Mainpuri, Auraiya and Kannauj districts of Uttar Pradesh who have benefited from this program during the last three years are as follows: -

Districts	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Etah	2359	1054	1233	1039	4449	1843
Kasganj	422	172	1222	1366	2783	2377
Mainpuri	353	506	329	878	931	515
Auraiya	231	1047	743	932	926	717
Kannauj	335	121	1000	377	2568	843

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Annexure -A

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3650 FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING TELE-LAW SCHEME

Number of Training sessions for Panel Lawyers and VLEs during the F.Y. 2024-2025 (Up to February 2025)				
Sr. No.	States/UTs	Panel Lawyers	VLEs	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands*	0	2	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	8	11	19
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4	Assam	9	14	23
5	Bihar	9	83	92
6	Chandigarh*	0	2	2
7	Chhattisgarh	8	72	80
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu*	0	0	0
9	Delhi	5	0	0
10	Gujarat	8	4	12
11	Goa	1	5	6
12	Haryana	8	74	82
13	Himachal Pradesh	8	55	63
14	Jammu and Kashmir	9	40	49
15	Jharkhand	8	34	42
16	Karnataka	8	8	16
17	Kerala	6	36	42
18	Ladakh	1	1	2
19	Lakshadweep*	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	9	70	79
21	Maharashtra	8	52	60
22	Manipur*	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	6	10	16
24	Mizoram	6	33	39
25	Nagaland	6	21	27
26	Odisha	8	37	45
27	Puducherry	1	3	4

28	Punjab	10	64	74.
29	Rajasthan	12	14	26
30	Sikkim*	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	9	48	57
32	Telangana	9	68	77
33	Tripura	6	5	11
34	**Uttar Pradesh**	**8**	**82**	**90**
35	Uttarakhand	7	7	14
36	West Bengal	9	68	77
	Total	**210**	**1023**	**1228**

Remarks: -

*Andaman and Nicobar Islands lawyers training sessions are merged with West Bengal training session.

*Arunachal Pradesh lawyers training sessions are merged with Assam training session

*Chandigarh lawyers training sessions are merged with Punjab training session

*Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu lawyers training sessions are merged with Maharashtra training session

*Sikkim lawyers training sessions are merged with Assam Training

*Lakshadweep lawyers training sessions are merged with Kerala training

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3653
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

India's Participation in BRICS Ministers of Justice Meeting

3653. Shri Tapir Gao:

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

(a) the details of key legal reforms and initiatives highlighted by India during the BRICS Ministers of Justice Meeting;

(b) whether the Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSEs Disputes (AMRCD) has been effective in resolving commercial disputes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to strengthen legal cooperation between India and other BRICS nations particularly in the fields of human rights, cyber security, and AI regulation?

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 key legal reforms and initiatives highlighted by India during the BRICS Ministers of Justice Meeting include the following:-

I. India's landmark Mediation Act for providing structured, cost-effective means of resolving disputes while preserving relationships
II. Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to reduce judicial burden and provide timely, equitable conflict resolution.
III. National Litigation Policy to reform government litigation by reducing case backlogs,
IV. Emphasis on digitalizing case records which marks a major leap towards modernization, transparency and judicial efficiency.
V. Creation of Advocates' Welfare Fund, for providing financial assistance to junior lawyers, disabled advocates, and those in need.
VI. Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSEs Disputes (AMRCD)

VII. Creation of the India Code Information System- a digital repository providing free access to all Central and State legislations.
VIII. One Nation – One Platform initiative for legal empowerment, offering a model for BRICS nations to enhance transparency, inclusivity, and civic participation in governance.
IX. Through the eCourt Mission Mode Project, the justice system is being digitalised to improve access to justice.
X. India's strong legal framework for extradition, mutual legal assistance and repatriation of prisoners

(b) & (c): Administrative Mechanism for Resolution of CPSEs Disputes (AMRCD) deals with all COMMERCIAL DISPUTES between Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) inter-se and also between CPSEs and Government Departments/Organisations (excluding disputes relating to Railways, Income Tax, Customs & Excise Departments). At present 195 commercial disputes are raised by different CPSEs and 50 out of these have been rejected at the scrutiny level by Financial Advisors of the administrative ministry of claimant CPSEs, while another 50 cases have been resolved by the Committee Secretaries (CoS). Remaining cases are processed under extant guidelines.

(d) India has been coordinating with other countries on AI regulations and cyber security related matters through multilateral forums like BRICS and the United Nations. Some examples include:

(i) The United Nations mandated Open ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (ICT), wherein, several pillars promote discussion on addressing the issue of cyber security as well as in developing the rules, norms, laws and principles for responsible state behaviors in cyberspace (including for AI) and which are aimed at promoting international security.

(ii) United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Global Digital Compact in September 2024, which is a comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation. India has been participating actively in the informal consultations and coordinating with several countries, including BRICS nations for formulation of appropriate governing framework of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

(iii) UNGA adopted the UN Convention against Cybercrime in December 2024, which is a land mark global treaty aimed at strengthening international cooperation at combating cybercrime and protecting societies from digital threats. India contributed actively towards finalization of the text of this Convention, including negotiations with

the BRICS nations.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3668
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21-03-2025

Appointment of Public Prosecutors

3668. Smt. Sajda Ahmed:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the appointment of public prosecutors is often influenced by political favoritism and nepotism, leading to the undermining of merit-based selection as per the observation made by Supreme Court;

(b) the measures being taken to ensure that the appointment process for public prosecutors is transparent, merit-based and free from political interference; and

(c) whether Government is considering to establish an independent commission or implementing judicial oversight to ensure fair and impartial appointments of public prosecutors, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Section 18 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 contains provisions relating to appointment of Public Prosecutors which are as under-

18.Public Prosecutors.
(1) For every High Court, the Central Government or the State Government shall, after consultation with the High Court, appoint a Public Prosecutor and may also appoint one or more Additional Public Prosecutors, for conducting in such Court, any prosecution, appeal or other proceeding on behalf of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be: Provided that for National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Central Government shall, after consultation

with the High Court of Delhi, appoint the Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutors for the purposes of this sub-section.

(2) The Central Government may appoint one or more Public Prosecutors for the purpose of conducting any case in any district or local area.

(3) For every district, the State Government shall appoint a Public Prosecutor and may also appoint one or more Additional Public Prosecutors for the district:Provided that the Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutor appointed for one district may be appointed also to be a Public Prosecutor or an Additional Public Prosecutor, as the case may be, for another district.

(4) The District Magistrate shall, in consultation with the Sessions Judge, prepare a panel of names of persons, who are, in his opinion fit to be appointed as Public Prosecutors or Additional Public Prosecutors for the district.

(5) No person shall be appointed by the State Government as the Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutor for the district unless his name appears in the panel of names prepared by the District Magistrate under sub-section (4).

(6) Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (5), where in a State there exists a regular Cadre of Prosecuting Officers, the State Government shall appoint a Public Prosecutor or an Additional Public Prosecutor only from among the persons constituting such Cadre:Provided that where, in the opinion of the State Government, no suitable person is available in such Cadre for such appointment, that Government may appoint a person as Public Prosecutor or Additional Public Prosecutor, as the case may be, from the panel of names prepared by the District Magistrate under sub-section (4).

Explanation.---For the purposes of this sub-section,--

(a) "regular Cadre of Prosecuting Officers" means a Cadre of Prosecuting Officers which includes therein the post of Public Prosecutor, by whatever name called, and which provides for promotion of Assistant Public Prosecutors, by whatever name called, to that post;

(b) "Prosecuting Officer" means a person, by whatever name called, appointed to perform the functions of a Public Prosecutor, Special Public Prosecutor, Additional Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor under this Sanhita.

(7) A person shall be eligible to be appointed as a Public Prosecutor or an Additional Public Prosecutor under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) or sub-section (6), only if he has been in practice as an advocate for not less than seven years.

(8) The Central Government or the State Government may appoint, for the purposes of any case or class of cases, a person who has been in practice as an advocate for not less than ten years as a Special Public Prosecutor:Provided that the Court may permit the victim to engage an advocate of his choice to assist the prosecution under this sub-section.

(9) For the purposes of sub-section (7) and sub-section (8), the period during which a person has been in practice as an advocate, or has rendered (whether before or after the commencement of this Sanhita) service as a Public Prosecutor or as an Additional Public Prosecutor or Assistant Public Prosecutor or other Prosecuting Officer, by whatever name called, shall be deemed to be the period during which such person has been in practice as an advocate.

The Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) are appointed, wherever applicable, to represent the Ministries/Departments before the Courts as per their respective Office Memorandum/Circulars/Instructions in view of the relevant provision of the Section 18 of Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3671
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21ST MARCH, 2025

CASES OF FALSE TESTIMONY

†3671. SHRI ATUL GARG:

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

(a) the number of criminal cases lying pending in various courts till date State-wise;

(b) the number of cases of false testimony registered by the court under section 215(1) of BNSS including the number of persons who have been punished;

(c) whether the aggrieved person can also register case/complaint against those who have made false statement or falsely testified in the court, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to bring any law to punish persons who make false statements or falsely testify in the court, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of criminal cases lying pending in various courts as on 17.03.2025 is as under:

S. No.	Name of Court	Criminal cases
1.	Supreme Court	17,647
2.	High Courts	18,34,509
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	3,46,20,014

The detailed statement showing State/UT-wise criminal cases lying pending in District Courts and High Courts are at ***Annexure-I*** and ***Annexure-II*** respectively.

(b): The Department does not maintain records on the number of cases registered by the courts or the number of persons punished under various sections of the BharatiyaNagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

(c) and (d): Section 229 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 provides for the punishment for false evidence. The details of the same and other related provisions can be accessed on the website : https://www.indiacode.nic.in/. Further, the legal provisions exist to deal with false statements/testimony.

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3671 FOR ANSWER ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING 'CASES OF FALSE TESTIMONY'.

Criminal Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts as on 17.03.2025

Sl. No	States/UT	Criminal Cases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,56,899
2.	Telangana	5,99,605
3.	Andman & Nicobar	4,199
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	8,020
5.	Assam	4,02,337
6.	Bihar	30,74,492
7.	Chandigarh	78,974
8.	Chhattisgarh	3,34,765
9.	Delhi	13,01,253
10.	Diu and Daman	1,850
11.	DNH at Silvassa	2,567
12.	Goa	32,902
13.	Gujarat	11,51,412
14.	Haryana	10,20,681
15.	Himachal Pradesh	4,51,921
16.	Jammu& Kashmir	2,14,451
17.	Jharkhand	4,52,935
18.	Karnataka	10,90,624
19.	Kerala	11,92,476
20.	Ladakh	773
21.	Madhya Pradesh	15,96,896
22.	Maharashtra	38,75,637
23.	Manipur	4,149
24.	Meghalaya	10,708
25.	Mizoram	3,158
26.	Nagaland	2,546
27.	Orissa	13,84,778
28.	Puducherry	22,310
29.	Punjab	4,80,629
30.	Rajasthan	18,07,848
31.	Sikkim	964
32.	Tamil Nadu	7,72,073
33.	Tripura	30,459
34.	U.T of Lakshadweep	386
35.	Uttar Pradesh	97,08,589
36.	Uttarakhand	2,88,464
37.	West Bengal	27,57,284
Total		**3,46,20,014**

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3671 FOR ANSWER ON 21.03.2025 REGARDING 'CASES OF FALSE TESTIMONY'.

Criminal Cases pending in High Courts as on 17.03.2025

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Criminal Cases
1.	Allahabad	5,52,716
2.	Bombay	1,14,296
3.	Calcutta	26,930
4.	Gauhati	16,184
5.	Telangana	31,908
6.	Andhra Pradesh	38,769
7.	Chhattisgarh	28,086
8.	Delhi	37,801
9.	Gujarat	55,959
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12,433
11.	Jammu and Kashmir &Ladakh	8,635
12.	Jharkhand	40,834
13.	Karnataka	54,068
14.	Kerala	51,489
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1,92,982
16.	Manipur	686
17.	Meghalaya	272
18.	Punjab and Haryana	1,65,247
19.	Rajasthan	1,81,876
20.	Sikkim	67
21.	Tripura	171
22.	Uttarakhand	25,035
23.	Madras	59,817
24.	Orissa	38,892
25.	Patna	99,356
	Total	18,34,509

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *411

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28.03.2025

JS(Apptts)

Representation of Judges of Weaker Communities in Courts

*411 SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI :
SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C:

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

(a) the total number of Judges appointed to Supreme Court (SC) and High Courts (HCs) of the country, State-wise since 2014;

(b) the number of judges belonging to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities appointed in SC and HCs in the country since 2014, category-wise;

(c) whether it is fact that from 2018 to 19 December, 2022, a total of 537 judges were appointed to the High Courts of which 1.3% belonged to STs, 2.8% to SCs, 11% to OBC categories and 2.6% to minority communities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons for inadequate representation of Judges of the said communities in the said courts;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the said communities in the said courts; and

(f) the details of judicial posts vacant in the courts in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *411 FOR ANSWER ON 28.03.2025 REGARDING "REPRESENTATION OF JUDGES OF WEAKER COMMUNITIES IN COURTS".

(a) to (f): Details regarding appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts since 2014 are at **Annexure-I**. Details regarding sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Court 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 any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). Hence, since 2018 the data on appointees to that extent is available. As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 540 Judges appointed from 2018 till 31.12.2022, 15 belong to SC category, 7 belong to ST category, 57 belong to OBC category and 27 belong to minority category.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,

Other Backward Classes; Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

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Annexure-I

Appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts since 2014.

S.No.	Name of the Court	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
A.	Supreme Court	09	01	03	06	08	10	-	09	03	14	04	02
B.	High Courts												
1	Allahabad	13	7	20	31	28	10	4	17	13	9	0	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	2	14	6	3	2
3	Bombay	14	0	6	14	4	11	4	6	19	9	5	1
4	Calcutta	1	8	1	6	11	6	1	8	16	0	0	4
5	Chhattisgarh	2	0	3	3	4	0	0	3	3	2	3	0.
6.	Delhi	4	0	5	4	5	4	0	2	17	5	0	5
7	Gauhati	0	5	5	2	2	4	0	6	2	5	0	1
8	Gujarat	1	0	5	0	4	3	7	7	0	8	4	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	3	0	4	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	0	0
10	J & K and Ladakh	0	0	0	3	2	0	5	2	4	0	1	0
11	Jharkhand	3	1	4	2	3	2	0	4	1	0	1	0
12	Karnataka	5	0	5	2	12	10	10	6	6	5	0	1
13	Kerala	6	7	5	3	4	1	6	12	1	3	12	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7	0	18	0	8	2	0	8	6	14	0	1
15	Madras	0	0	25	12	8	1	10	5	4	13	3	0
16	Manipur	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
18	Orissa	3	3	0	0	1	1	2	4	6	2	0	0
19	Patna	4	2	6	6	0	4	0	6	11	2	2	3
20	Punjab & Haryana	14	1	1	8	7	10	1	6	21	4	0	2
21	Rajasthan	1	0	11	5	0	3	6	8	2	9	0	4
22	Sikkim	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Telangana	0	0	1	10	0	3	1	7	17	3	0	4
24	Tripura	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	2
	Total (High Courts)	82	35	126	115	108	81	66	120	165	110	34	31

Annexure-II

Statement showing sanctioned strength and working strength of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts (As on 24.03.2025)

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
A.	Supreme Court	34	33	01
B.	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	79	81
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	30	7
3	Bombay	94	66	28
4	Calcutta	72	46	26
5	Chhattisgarh	22	16	6
6	Delhi	60	39	21
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	32	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	15	10
11	Jharkhand	25	15	10
12	Karnataka	62	50	12
13	Kerala	47	44	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	34	19
15	Madras	75	65	10
16	Manipur	5	4	1
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	18	15
19	Patna	53	37	16
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	53	32
21	Rajasthan	50	34	16
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	30	12
24	Tripura	5	5	0
25	Uttarakhand	11	9	2
	Total	**1122**	**765**	**357**

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4618
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 28.03.2025

Notary Cell (L/A)

New Notary Portal

4618 Shri Tejasvi Surya:
Shri Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne:
Shri Anurag Sharma:
Smt. Bharti Pardhi:
Shri Basavaraj Bommai:
Shri Manoj Tiwari:
Shri Damodar Agrawal:
Smt. Mahima Kumari Mewar:
Shri Kanwar Singh Tanwar:
Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat:
Shri Arun Govil:
Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched a New Notary Portal for appointment of Notaries and if so, the details along with the features thereof;

(b) the objective of creating the Notary Portal and the situation that existed before its creation;

(c) the role of the Notary Portal in promoting efficiency and transparency across various States particularly in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement additional features or updates to further enhance the efficiency of the Notary Portal, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps are being taken/proposed to be taken to create/develop a digital storage facility for notary records; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the specific technology and infrastructure being utilized to develop a secure digital storage facility for notary records and the timeline for the complete digitization of notary records?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Government has launched the Notary Portal as a dedicated platform for providing online services for the works related to the Notaries Act,1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. It is intended to provide an online interface between the Notaries and the Government for various services like submission of applications for appointment as Notaries, verification of eligibility for appointment as Notaries, issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice as a Notary, renewal of Certificate of Practice, change of practice area, submission of annual return etc. The Notary Portal provides a faceless, paperless, transparent and efficient system. Presently, only the module related to verification of documents and eligibility and issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice to the newly appointed Notaries is live. Prior to launch of the Notary Portal, Certificate of Practice used to be issued physically to the Notaries. As on 25.3.2025, more than 26,600 digitally signed Certificates of Practice have been issued to the newly appointed Notaries for various States and Union Territories through the Notary Portal.

(e): No Sir.

(f): does not arise.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4640
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28/03/2025

Judl. Section (LA

Transparency in Allocation of Cases to Panel Counsels

4640. Shri Rao Rajendra Singh:

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

(a) the manner in which the new guidelines for case allocation among panel counsel is to be implemented across various Ministries;

(b) the measures to ensure compliance with these guidelines by all designated Litigation In-charges; and

(c) the manner in which the Government has to monitor the adherence to the case allocation guidelines by Litigation In-charges?

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

3(i) cases of ordinary/routine nature may be assigned to Panel Counsel (except Addl. SGI/Dy. SGI/ Senior Panel Counsel) on turn basis;

3(ii) if the Ministry/Department recommends the name of a particular Panel Counsel in writing, it should have proper justification;

3(iii) important, sensitive, and high stake matters including those involving constitutional vires of the provision being under challenge may be assigned to Addl. SGI/Dy. SGI/ Senior Panel Counsel and/or on the specific request in writing of the Ministry/Department concerned;

3(iv) two or more cases in which substantially identical questions of law or facts are involved and where the main difference is in the names, address of the parties concerned, amount of money involved etc. irrespective of the fact whether all such cases are heard together or not, may be assigned to the same Panel counsel and not different ones;

3(v) a Panel Counsel, except Addl. SGI/ Dy. SGI/ Sr. Panel Counsel, should at a given point have not more than 10% cases out of total pendency of Central Government litigation before the High Court/Tribunal/District & Subordinate Court concerned;

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

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

For Various Courts/Tribunals at Delhi, the In-charge of attached offices of Department of Legal Affairs i.e. Litigation (High Court/CAT), Litigation (Lower Court) Section shall be responsible for engagement of Law Officers/Panel Counsels for High Court, CAT (PB) and other Tribunals in Delhi; District and Subordinate Courts respectively. For cases before the High Court of Delhi, allocation of cases to be done in consultation with the Additional Solicitor General of India concerned.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4654
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

ADR Cell (LA)

Arbitration and Conciliation Act

4654. Shri Haribhai Patel:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act in response to the recent Supreme Court judgement regarding the unilateral appointment of arbitrators;

(b) the manner in which the Government plans to ensure that the amendment process addresses concerns raised by the Supreme Court while maintaining efficiency in dispute resolution;

(c) the manner in which these amendments impact arbitration processes involving Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private parties;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to facilitate stakeholder consultations during the amendment process to ensure comprehensive input from all relevant parties; and

(e) the manner in which the Government foresee these changes enhancing the overall legal framework for arbitration?

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)

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(a) to (e) The proposed amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, are under the process of requisite consultations. As part of the pre-

legislative consultation exercise, the draft Bill was placed on the website of the Department for inviting comments from the stakeholders. Further, as the subject-matter of arbitration falls within the concurrent list contained in Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, comments on the draft Bill have also been sought from the States. The draft proposed amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 *inter-alia* aim to promote institutional arbitration, minimise court intervention and facilitate expeditious resolution of disputes through arbitration.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4669
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

JS(JM)
(NM)

DISPOSAL OF PENDING CASES IN COURTS

†4669. DR. SAMBIT PATRA:

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

(a) whether any mechanism has been developed by the Government for the calculation of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Lower Courts and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether certain measures have been taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the courts and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in regard to the assessment of success of the alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any proposal for assessment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Commercial Courts for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts is under consideration with the Government 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): The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), developed under the e-Courts Project, is an online platform that provides all case-related information on a real-time basis across all levels of courts i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts and Lower Courts. The 'Pending Dashboard' feature of the

portal hosts information regarding case pendency for both civil and criminal cases with the ability to perform drill-down analysis based on the age, stage and type of cases.

(b): Disposal of pending court cases is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on

28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iv. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 20.03.2025, 67 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1030 new Judges were appointed and 791 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.01.2025, 860 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 31.01.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases.

vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and

Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. 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 four years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	**19,62,73,548**	**4,83,08,835**	**24,45,82,383**

x. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu

(Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(c) & (d): No study/assessment has been conducted regarding the success of alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts. Further, at present, there is no proposal under consideration for assessment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Commercial Courts for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4682
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

INCREASE IN PENDENCY OF CASES IN SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURTS

JS (hm) (Nm)

†4682. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL:

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

(a) whether the number of pending cases is continuously increasing despite the implementation of several information technology initiatives by the Supreme Court to streamline its day-to-day operations and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court;

(c) the reasons for piling up of cases in the Supreme Court;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the disposal of cases in the Supreme Court and various other courts in the country; and

(e) the number of cases pending in the Rajasthan High 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 (e): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of cases pending before the Supreme Court and Rajasthan High Court as on 24.03.2025 is as under:

S. No.	Name of the Court	Cases Pending
1.	Supreme Court of India	81,329
2.	Rajasthan High Court	6,71,113

As per information provided by Supreme Court of India, there is no one conspicuous reason for pendency of cases. It is a multi-faceted situation. However, with the increase in population of the country, ease of access and awareness amongst public, usage of technology etc., the filing of fresh cases, is continuously increasing year after year, with the number of Judges and Courts remaining same. Therefore, the prime reason for pendency of the cases is inadequate Judge/Population ratio in the country and also the insufficient strength of Hon'ble Judges. The pandemic which set in around 2020 has also contributed significantly in increasing the pendency.

While the disposal of cases falls under the purview of the judiciary, the Government is committed to creating an environment that facilitates faster case resolution, in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various

stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

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Judges were appointed and 791 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

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Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.01.2025, 860 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 31.01.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases.

vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments

(Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a

civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. 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.

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2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	**19,62,73,548**	**4,83,08,835**	**24,45,82,383**

x. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4689
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN JUDGES IN JUDICIARY

4689. MS. S JOTHIMANI:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the representation of women in the judiciary, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any specific policies or reservations to promote the appointment of women judges in the higher and lower judiciary and if not, whether the Government plans to introduce such measures;

(c) whether the Government has held any discussions with the judiciary or the collegium system to enhance gender diversity in judicial appointments and if so, the details of such discussions; and

(d) the comparative data on women's representation in the Indian judiciary versus other countries and the lessons India can adopt to ensure gender balance in the judicial system?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

Since 2014 till date 06 women judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 162 women Judges have been appointed in the High Courts. As on 18.03.2025, there are 02 women Judges working in the Supreme Court and 110 women Judges in High Courts. As on 28.02.2025, there are 7,852 women Judges working in District and Subordinate Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts.

Comparative data on women's representation in the judiciary across countries is not centrally maintained. Judicial appointments are made as per the provisions of the Constitution. Nevertheless, the Government remains committed to promoting social diversity, including gender representation, and continues to encourage consideration of suitable women candidates in the appointment process.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4710
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 28/03/2025

JS(N&W)
(LA&J)

LOK ADALATS

†4710. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to dispose of pending cases by organizing the Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, whether the date for organising the Lok Adalats for the current year and the next three years has been announced; and

(c) if so, the details of the time-gap during which the target set to organize such Adalats at present and the number of cases disposed of till date?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): 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 to the respective courts and hence nothing remains pending with Lok Adalats. It is mentioned that no specific disposal target is fixed prior to organization of any type of Lok Adalat.

(b) and (c): The State Legal Services Authorities have been issued guidelines/ directions by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) vide National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalat) Regulations, 2009 to organise more Lok Adalats so that pendency of cases could be reduced. Every year, NALSA issues calendar for organising National Lok Adalats.

During the year 2025, National Lok Adalat was held on 8th March. National Lok Adalats are further scheduled to be held on 10th May, 13th September and 13th December. The State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per the local conditions and needs. Lok Adalats reduce case load of courts by resolving substantive number of cases from time to time. The details of the number of cases settled by the Lok Adalats during the last two years and current year (upto December) are as follows:

(i) National Lok Adalat

Year	Pre-litigative cases settled	Pending cases settled	Total cases settled
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119

(ii) State Lok Adalat

Year	Pre-litigative cases settled	Pending cases settled	Total cases settled
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24	2,19,230	9,87,873	12,07,103
2024-25	7,68,560	4,39,667	12,08,227

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services)

Year	Total cases settled
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25	1,61,277

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4725
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE 28TH MARCH 2025

JUDICIAL REFORMS

4725. Dr. Anand Kumar:

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

(a) whether the Government has introduced any reforms to reduce the pendency of cases in the courts across the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are plans to set up fast-track courts for cases related to women's safety and cybercrime in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Bahraich and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering increasing the use of technology to improve judicial efficiency and transparency and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any measures are being taken to provide free legal aid to marginalized communities and ensure easy access to justice; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the number of people provided free legal aid in the country in the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Disposal of pending cases in a time bound manner is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to create an ecosystem that facilitates the faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. Some of these initiatives are as follows:

I. **National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms :** The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including

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

II. **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary:** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025, and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

III. **Judicial Appointments:** The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 06.03.2025, 66 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1024 new Judges were appointed and 788 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

IV. **Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

V. **Legislative Amendments:** With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

VI. **Promotion of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was

amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

(b): Establishment of subordinate Courts, including Fast Track Courts for cyber-crime and women's safety, lies within the domain of the State/UT Governments who set up such courts as per their needs and resources, in consultation with their respective High Courts.

The 14th Finance Commission had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had further urged the State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 860 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.01.2025. In the State of Uttar Pradesh, there are 373 FTCs functional in the State as on 31.01.2025.

Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-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. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.01.2025. These courts have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme while more than 2,03,000 cases are pending. In the State of Uttar Pradesh there are 218 functional FTSCs in the State with 3 functional FTSCs in Bahraich, as on 31.01.2025.

(c): The Government is committed to leveraging technology to enhance judicial efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. In this regard, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is a key initiative aimed at modernizing the judicial system through the adoption of digital infrastructure and citizen-centric services. Under the Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

(d) & (e): Measures taken by the Government to provide free legal aid to marginalized communities and ensure easy access to justice are as follows:

- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act. This Act ensures that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been set up from the Taluk level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include legal aid and advice; legal awareness programmes; legal services/empowerment camps; legal services clinics; legal literacy clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of victim compensation scheme.
- The details of number of persons benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions in the country during the last three financial years; 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December, 2024) are as follows: -

Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2022-23	12,14,769
2023-24	15,50,164
2024-25 (upto December 2024)	11,79,800
TOTAL	39,44,733

- In 2021, a comprehensive, pan-India scheme titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA) was launched for a period of five years (2021- 2026) at an outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen-centric legal services through Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programmes. Under the DISHA scheme, Tele- Law connects citizens with the lawyers through mobile app "Tele- Law" and Toll Free number for rendering pre-litigation advice; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono services) facilitates registered beneficiaries to avail pro bono legal representation in courts and under the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, citizens are empowered to know, understand and avail their legal rights, duties and entitlements. Till 28th February 2025, DISHA scheme through its various programmes has outreached approximately 2.10 crore beneficiaries in the country.
- Further, Tele- Law services has impacted women (39.4 %), General (24%), OBCs (31%), SCs (31%) and STs (14%) of its total 1,08,69,661 beneficiaries. Moreover, in order to increase the outreach, the Tele Law web portal and Tele- Law application has been translated in 22 scheduled languages. Special endeavours have also been made to increase its outreach through both print and digital media. Further, special efforts have been made to integrate Tele-Law with Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) platform for pre-litigation advice and legal representation in courts. Toll-Free number for citizens through 14454 has been operationalized for instant legal advice and counselling.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4731
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th MARCH, 2025

Phases of e-Courts Project

4731. Shri Ramvir Singh Bidhuri:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government in various phases under the project of setting up of e-Courts; and

(b) the status of setting up of e-Courts in Delhi and other States of the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts project is an integrated Mission Mode Project under implementation since 2007 for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". Phase I (2011-2015) of the e-Courts project aimed at providing basic hardware and network connectivity to the Courts, while Phase II (2015-2023) focused on providing citizen centric services to the litigants and lawyers including, development of an end-to end digital system, which revolutionized the way public accessed the services provided by the judiciary.

Some of the major steps undertaken in Phase I, include:

i. Computerisation of 14,249 District and Subordinate Courts, installation of Local Area Network (LAN) at 13,683 courts,

ii. Hardware installation in 13,436 courts and software installed in 13,672 courts.

iii. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was 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 was trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators

vi. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 493 court complexes and 347 corresponding jails.

Under phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project, several e-initiatives on part of the Government have helped facilitate access to justice using technology, which are detailed as under:

i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity was provided to 99.5% of total Court Complexes across the country, with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Submarine Cable etc. This forms the backbone for the eCourts project ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.

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. The litigants can access case information and more than 29.94 crore orders / judgments (as on date).

iii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has started in the High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Meghalaya and Calcutta.

iv. As on date, the district and subordinate courts have heard 2,57,14,770 cases, while the High Courts have heard 92,31,640 cases (totaling 3.49 crore), using video conferencing system. The Supreme Court of India has held 9,94,054 hearings (from March'2020 till Feb'2025) through video conferencing.

v. eFiling system (version 3.0) was rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7.

vi. ePayment system was launched for hassle free transfer of fee, etc.

vii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) was launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons.

viii. Judgment Search portal was started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, etc. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

ix. To facilitate easy and hassle-free access to citizen-centric services, 1610 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) have been established across India.

x. 28 Virtual Courts are functioning across 21 States/UTs for trying traffic related offences. Over 6.66 crore cases have been handled by these virtual courts and in more than 68 lakhs cases, online fine of more than Rs. 714.99 crores have been realized.

xi. Apart from this, as part of eCourts services, 7 platforms have been created to provide information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/ litigants through SMS Push and Pull, Email, multilingual eCourts services Portal, JSC (Judicial Service centres), Info Kiosks, eCourts Mobile

App for lawyers/litigants (2.87 crore downloads till date) and JustIS App for judges (21,105 downloads till date).

xii. To bring in greater objectivity, consistency, transparency and speed, Case Information System (CIS) version 4.0 software has been implemented across the district and taluka courts across the country.

eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) has been approved by the Union Cabinet in Sep'2023 at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. The project envisages various new digital initiatives such as establishment of Digital and Paperless Courts that aim to bring court proceedings under a digital format, digitization of court records (both legacy records and pending cases), expansion of video conferencing facilities to courts, jails and hospitals, scope of online courts beyond adjudication of traffic violations, saturation of all court complexes with eSewa kendras, state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval and supporting the digitized court records, software applications, live streaming, and electronic evidence etc., use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and its subsets like Optical Character Recognition (OCR) etc. for analysis of case pendency, forecasting future litigation, etc. Thus, the efforts of the Government of integrating technology with the governance has facilitated the ease of seeking justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. As on date, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts, as per details at Annexure I.

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Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4731 for 28/03/2025 regarding Phases of e-Courts Project.

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 AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4737

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

Leg. II Section (LD)

Digital Voting System

4737. **Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure:**

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

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to adopt digital voting system in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(b) the details of progress made in this regard so far?

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 Election Commission of India has informed that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) have been continuously used in elections to the House of the People and State Legislative Assembly for more than two decades. Since 2000, EVMs have been used in 5 general elections to the House of the People (2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024),157 general elections to State Legislative Assemblies and bye-elections.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4738

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th MARCH, 2025

Nyaya Vikas Projects in Andhra Pradesh

4738. Shri G Lakshminarayana:

Shri Appalanaidu Kalisetti:

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

(a) the details of the projects approved under the Nyaya Vikas Scheme in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilized for these projects during the last five years;

(c) the current status of these projects including those that are ongoing, delayed or completed;

(d) whether there are any pending proposals under the Nyaya Vikas Scheme in the said State and if so, the reasons for the delay in their approval or implementation; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the pending projects and ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects in the State?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): The Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in District and Subordinate Courts to supplement the resources of the State/UT Governments, with an aim to progressively improve the physical infrastructure of the District and Subordinate Courts. The Scheme covers construction of Court Halls and Residential units for Judicial Officers

along-with Lawyer Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants.

The States/UTs are required to geo-tag the on-going and completed projects in real time and reflect it on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, which is an online monitoring system developed with the technical assistance of National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for collection of data on progress and time bound completion of judicial infrastructure projects. In respect of the State of Andhra Pradesh, the details of projects approved under the CSS and geo-tagged on the Nyaya Vikas Portal are at Annexure-I.

Since inception of the scheme in 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 273.23 cr has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh, out of which, a sum of Rs. 151.12 cr (including Central and State Share) has been released during last five years. The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized in respect of the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years are as under: -

(amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No	Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Released	Utilized
1.	2020-21	10.28 (CS) + 9.12 (SS)	19.40	19.40
2.	2021-22	0.00 (CS) + 12.98 (SS)	12.98	12.98
3.	2022-23	22.50 (CS) + 27.17 (SS)	49.67	48.85
4.	2023-24	49.81 (CS) + 17.61 (SS)	67.42	65.31
5.	2024-25 (as on date)*	0.99 (CS) + 0.66 (SS)	1.65	1.65
Total		**151.12**	**151.12**	**151.12**

** Released under SNA-SPARSH*

CS: Central Share, SS: State Share

As on date, 661 court halls and residential units are available in the State. 81 court halls and 14 residential units are under construction. The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments and the Government of India augments the resources of the State Governments in this regard. Timely completion of projects is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and their agencies. Under the guidelines of the scheme, monitoring mechanisms are in place for

time bound and sustainable infrastructure developments in the States/UTs. There is a High Court Level Monitoring Committee in the State, chaired by the Chief Justice of the respective High Courts, to review the physical and financial progress of the projects running under the scheme. Apart from this, there is a Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice to review the progress of the projects. Besides, there are regular visits by the officials of the Department of Justice to the States for getting first hand information on the ground. Regular meetings through video conferencing to sort out the problems of the States/UTs also take place, besides the geo-tagging facilities available on the Nyaya Vikas Portal for real time monitoring of projects. As per information provided by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the details of projects pending before the Government of Andhra Pradesh for administrative sanction are at Annexure-II.

Annexure –I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4738 for 28/03/2025

Details of Andhra Pradesh geotagged projects available on Nyaya Vikas Portal					
S. No	**Project Name**	**District**	**Status**	**No. of Court Halls**	**No. of Residential Units**
1	Construction of G2 Building to the newly established Senior civil judge court at Dharmavaram	Ananthapur	CMP	1	1
2	Construction of addle district court building on the existing Sr civil judge court bldg at Hindupur.	Ananthapur	CMP	1	0
3	Construction of residential quarters for Senior Civil Judge and Junior Civil Judge at Hindupur	Ananthapur	CMP	0	0
4	Construction of four court building complex and residential quarters at Palamaner in Chittoor Dist	Chittoor	UC	4	4
5	Construction of court building for Junior Civil Judge at Pakala in Chittoor district	Chittoor	CMP	1	0
6	Construction of residential quarter for Junior Civil Judge at Thamballapalle in Chittoor district	Chittoor	CMP	0	1
7	Construction of 1st floor on the existing II Addl Judge Court Building at Madanapalli in Chittoor dt	Chittoor	CMP	1	0
8	Construction of Four Residential Quarters for Judicial Officers at Punganur in Chittoor District	Chittoor	UC	0	4

9	Construction of 15 court building complex at Chittoor	Chittoor	UC	15	1
10	Construction of Senior Civil Judge Court building at Punganur	Chittoor	CMP	1	0
11	Construction of 2 court building complex at Srikalahasthi	Chittoor	CMP	2	0
12	Construction of 2 court building and Judicial Officers residential qrtrs for Jr Ci Judges at Mydukur	Cuddapah	CMP	2	0
13	construction of addle jr civil judge court complex building at Rayachoty	Cuddapah	CMP	1	0
14	Construction of Junior Civil Judge court building at Railway Kodur	Cuddapah	CMP	1	0
15	Construction of Junior civil judge court building at Sidhout	Cuddapah	UC	1	0
16	Construction of 4 court building complex at proddatur Part B second floor	Cuddapah	CMP	1	0
17	Construction of First floor over existing PJCJ quarter for Addl Jr Civil Judge at Tuni in E G Dist	East Godavari	CMP	0	1
18	Construction of first floor over existing family court building in District Court Rajamahendravaram	East Godavari	CMP	2	0
19	Construction of Ten court building at Rajamahendravaram in East Godavari District	East Godavari	UC	10	0
20	Construction of residential quarter for senior civil judge at	East Godavari	UC	0	1

	Ramachandrapuram in East Godavari District				
21	Construction of residential quarter for the Junior Civil Judge at Prathipadu in East Godavari District	East Godavari	CMP	0	1
22	Construction of Junior Civil Judge building at Prathipadu	East Godavari	CMP	1	0
23	Construction of III Addl District court building at Kakinada	East Godavari	CMP	2	0
24	Con of 3 floors over existing excise court at Kakinada to accommodate III Addl Sr Cl Judge court in	East Godavari	CMP	2	0
25	Construction of 3rd floor over existing 4 court building complex at Amalapuram	East Godavari	CMP	2	0
26	Construction of junior civil judge court building at Mummidivaram	East Godavari	CMP	1	0
27	Construction of residential quarter for 2nd Addl District Judge at Amalapuram	East Godavari	CMP	0	0
28	Construction of building to accommodate newly established Addl Dist and Sessions court at Pitapuram	East Godavari	CMP	2	0
29	Construction of Residential quarters to XIII Addl Dist Judge and Prl Civil Judge at Narasaraopet	Guntur	CMP	0	0
30	Construction of 1st floor over existing quarter Mangalagiri for	Guntur	CMP	0	0

	Senior Civil Judge Mangalagiri				
31	Construction of 1st floor on the Fast track court Building in the District Court at Machilipatnam	Krishna	CMP	1	0
32	Construction of two court building complex at Avanigadda	Krishna	CMP	2	0
33	Construction of court building for junior civil judge at Kaikalur	Krishna	CMP	1	0
34	Construction of residential quarter to the Junior Civil Judge at Kaikalur	Krishna	CMP	0	1
35	Construction of residential quarter for XI Addl District Judge at Gudivada	Krishna	UC	0	0
36	Construction of Multistoried court bldg complex after demolishing old sub court bldg at VIijayawada	Krishna	UC	26	1
37	Construction of 2 courts building complex for Sr Civil Judge and addle Jr Civil Judge at Nandigama	Krishna	UC	2	0
38	Construction of New Six Court Building complex at Adoni in Kurnool district	Kurnool	UC	6	0
39	Construction of Four Court Building(Stilt 3 floors) at Dhone in Kurnool District	Kurnool	UC	4	0
40	Construction of 4 court building complex at Kurnool	Kurnool	CMP	4	1
41	Construction of 8 court building complex at Nandyal	Kurnool	CMP	8	0

42	Construction of 6 court buildings in the Prl District Complex at Nellore	Nellore	CMP	6	0
43	Construction of 1st floor on the existing two court building complex at Gudur	Nellore	UC	2	0
44	Construction of building for providing accommodation to Junior Civil Judge court at Naidupet	Nellore	CMP	1	2
45	Construction of Residential quarter for Addl Junior Civil Judge at Giddalur in Prakasam district	Prakasam	CMP	0	1
46	Construction of Residential Quarter for Additional District Judge at Markapur and Compound wall	Prakasam	CMP	0	1
47	construction of two court building (G+1) in the vacant site available in the court complex Markapur	Prakasam	UC	2	0
48	construction of two court complex at Giddalur	Prakasam	CMP	2	0
49	construction of two court complex at Markapur	Prakasam	CMP	2	8
50	construction of 8 quarters block for judicial officers at Ongole	Prakasam	CMP	0	4
51	construction of 4 quarters block for judicial officers at Ongole	Prakasam	CMP	0	1
52	Construction of residential quarter forJunior Civil Judge at Kotabommali in Srikakulam District	Srikiakulam	CMP	1	0

53	Construction of four court building complex at Srikakulam	Srikiakulam	CMP	4	0
54	Construction of single court building at Palakonda	Srikiakulam	CMP	1	2
55	Construction of Four Court Building Complex at Chodavaram in Visakhapatnam district	Vishakhapatnam	UC	4	0
56	Construction of Senior Civil Judge court at Narsipatnam	Vishakhapatnam	CMP	1	0
57	Construction of Additional court over two court building at Gajuwaka	Vishakhapatnam	CMP	2	0
58	Construction of residential quarter for the judicial first class Magistrate at Araku	Vishakhapatnam	CMP	0	0
59	Construction of four court building complex at Visakhapatnam	Vishakhapatnam	UC	4	0
60	Construction of junior civil judge court building at Salur	Vizianagaram	CMP	2	0
61	Construction of Principal Junior Civil Judge Residential Quarters at Parvathipuram in Vizianagaram District	Vizianagaram	UC	0	1
62	Construction of Additional Junior Civil Judge Residential Quarters at Parvathipuram in Vizianagaram District	Vizianagaram	UC	0	1
63	Construction of II Additional District Judge Residential Quarter at Parvathipuram in Vizianagaram District	Vizianagaram	UC	0	1

64	Construction of residential quarter for civil judge at Parvathipuram	Vizianagaram	CMP	0	0
65	Construction of 2 court building complex at Parvathipuram	Vizianagaram	CMP	2	0
66	Construction of court building and residential quarter at Kurupam	Vizianagaram	CMP	1	0
67	Construction of residential quarter for the District Judge at Eluru in West Godavari district	West Godavari	CMP	0	1
68	Construction of 1st floor over existing Senior Civil Judges Building at Tanuku in West Godavari Dist	West Godavari	UC	2	0
69	Construction of 1st floor over existing ground floor of Principal Jr Civil judge court at Palakol	West Godavari	CMP	1	0

CMP: Completed, UC: Under Construction
Source: Nyaya Vikas Portal

Annexure –II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4738 for 28/03/2025

PROJECTS PENDING BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION

Sl. No.	Nature of the work	Date on which letter addressed to the Government	AMOUNT IN Rs./-
	ANANTAPUR DISTRICT		
1	Construction of six court building in the District Court complex, Anantapur.	Roc.No.1349/2013-DII(B), dt.17.06.2023	19,44,00,000/-
	CHITTOOR DISTRICT		
2	Construction of storage building to preserve the contraband/ganja seized in cases registered under the provision of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, within the identified site at Court complex, Chittoor.	Roc.No.323/2021-DII(B), dt.28.07.2022	50,00,000/-
3	Construction of Bar Association building in the premises of Court complex at Srikalahasti.	Roc.No.234/2022-DII(B), dt.28.10.2024	75,00,000/-
4	Construction of temporary structure for the office of IV Addl. Junior Civil Judge's Court.	Roc.No.162/2021-DII(B) dated 25.1.2024.	46,00,000/-
5	Construction of three residential quarters in the existing Nyayadeesha Nilayam at Tirupati (revised against 3,25,00,000/)	Roc no.1081/2013 dated 21.2.2024	3,87,00,000/-
	EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT		
6	Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court building at Prathipadu. (revised as against the amount of Rs. 4,19,20,000/-)	Roc.No.1358/2007-DII(B), dt.31.12.2018	5,64,00,000/-
7	Construction of residential quarter to the Senior Civil Judge, Kothapet (revised administrative sanction instead of 1,50,00,000/-)	Roc.No.1542/2012-DII(B), dt.6.09.2024	1,60,00,000/-
8	Construction of Judicial Guest House at Rajamahendravaram. (instead of 75.00 lakhs)	Roc.No.63/2019-DII(B), dt.13.11.2024	1,00,00,000/-

9	Construction of storage building to preserve the contraband/ganja seized in cases registered under the provision of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. (instead of 24.00 lakhs)	Roc.No.162/2021-DII(B), dt.20.09.2024	28,00,000/-
10	Construction of residential quarter to Junior Civil Judge, Mummidivaram. (instead of Rs.1,45,00,000/-)	Roc.No.272/2022-DII(B), dt.13.11.2024	1,49,00,000/-
11	Providing internal and external electrification, fire alarm and lift arrangements in 2 floors on the existing Excise Court building, Kakinada.	Roc.No.834/2013-DII(B), dt.04.11.2023	53,50,000/-
	GUNTUR DISTRICT		
12	Construction of Bar Association building at Tenali. (instead of 31.00 lakhs)	Roc.No.760/2022-DII(B), dt.13.11.2024	57,00,000/-
	KADAPA DISTRICT		
13	Construction of residential quarter for Junior Civil Judge, Railway Kodur. (revised administrative sanction)	Roc.No.558/2008-DII(B), dt.2.12.2024	1,30,00,000/-
14	Completion of unfinished work at second floor, internal roads, compound wall and electrical works to the four Court building complex at Proddatur, Kadapa District.	Roc.No.438/2005-DII(B), dt.18.12.2023	6,58,00,000/-
15	Construction of conference hall-cum-legal research centre on terrace of Bar Association building, Kadapa.	Roc.No.517/2022-DII(B), dt.13.12.2023	1,35,00,000/-
16	Construction of Criminal Court complex (G+5) in the District Court premises, Kadapa (8 Court halls)	Roc.No.1201/2017-DII(B), dt.28.11.2024	28,90,00,000/-
17	Construction of compound wall, CC pavement & CC drains and parking shed at Junior Civil Judge's Court at Mydukur. (Instead of Rs.2,04,00,000/-)	Roc.No.976/2014-DII(B), dt.5.12.2024	1,95,00,000/-
18	construction of single court building and residential quarters to the Junior Civil Judge at Nandalur.	Roc.No.327/2015, Dated 20.11.2024	6,60,00,000/-
	KRISHNA DISTRICT		

19	Construction of two Courts for XVI Additional District Judge and Principal Junior Civil Judge on First floor over ongoing construction of two court building, Nandigama. (Additional amount)	Roc.No.906/2011-DII(B), dt.06.02.2023	3,30,00,000/-
20	Construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court building at Mylavaram.	Roc.No.162/2021-DII(B), dt.11.05.2023	4,75,00,000/-
	PRAKASAM DISTRICT		
21	Construction of residential quarter for the Senior Civil Judge at Markapur. (instead of 110.00 lakhs)	Roc.No.661/2018-DII(B), dt.13.11.2024.	1,50,00,000/-
22	Renovation of existing Senior Civil Judge's Court building at Parchur.	Roc.No.308/2023-DII(B), dt.27.12.2023	1,77,00,000/-
23	Construction of residential quarter of Additional Junior Civil Judge at Chirala	Roc.No.1154/2013-DII(B) dated 7.12.2024	1,51,00,000/-
	SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT		
24	construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court building at Kothuru, Srikakulam District.	Roc.No.330/2019-DII(B), dt.14.09.2022	5,51,00,000/-
25	Construction of Senior civil Judge's residential quarter (twin type quarters) at Tekkali	Roc.No:665/2021-DII(B), dt.05.12.2022	2,80,00,000/-
26	Construction of Senior Civil Judge's Court building (Two Court building) at Tekkali in Srikakulam District. (instead of Rs.12,10,00,000/-)	Roc.No.302/2022-DII(B), dt.03.04.2024	11,90,00,000/-
27	construction of Junior Civil Judge's Court Building at Palasa, Srikakulam District.(RAS)	Roc.No.1001/2017-DII(B) dated 4.4.2024	5,90,00,000/-
	VISAKHAPATNAM		
28	Construction of Additional District Judge's quarters (two quarters) at Gajuwaka.(RAS)	Roc no.751/2014-DII(B) dated 6.4.2024	3,72,00,000/-
	VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT		
29	Construction of single court building at Kothavalasa.	Roc.No.379/2020-DII(B), dt.18.04.2023	4,68,00,000/-
	WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT		
30	Construction of library room in the court complex at Tadepalligudem.	Roc.No.1378/2018-DII(B), dt.27.02.2018	18,00,000/-

31	Construction of residential quarter for the Additional District Judge at Tanuku (Instead of 1,70,00,000/-)	Roc.No.633/2016-DII(B), dt.24.10.2024	1,77,00,000/-
32	Construction of residential quarter of Senior Civil Judge, Narsapur.	Roc.No.594/2018-DII(B), dt.18.09.2021	1,25,00,000/-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4787

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

USKQ (LD)

Lokpal/Lokayukta

†4787. Shri Patel Umeshbhai Babubhai:

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

(a) whether Lokpal/Lokayukta is functional in the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is mandatory to constitute a Lokpal/Lokayukta in every State/UT as per the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether absence of Lokpal/Lokayukta is in violation of the Provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013; and

(d) whether any other institutional system on the lines of Lokayukta has been created in the said UT that can register and investigate cases against the administrators and other high officials there?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that as per the provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (1 of 2014), the institution of Lokpal established under the Act has jurisdiction over the officials of the Union territory Administration in the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

(b) The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) has informed that, section 63 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 provides as under:

> "63. Every State shall establish a body to be known as the Lokayukta for the State, if not so established, constituted or appointed, by a law made by the State Legislature, to deal with complaints relating to corruption against certain public functionaries, within a period of one year from the date of commencement of this Act.".

(c) & (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4799
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28TH MARCH, 2025

PENDING CONTEMPT CASES

4799. SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA:

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

(a) whether 1.45 lakh contempt cases are pending in Supreme Court and various High Courts, if so, the details thereof, court-wise;

(b) the reasons for non compliance with the orders of Supreme Court and various High Courts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for compliance of these orders?

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 per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India, 1,852 contempt cases are pending before the Supreme Court as on 20.03.2025. Further, as per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the number of contempt cases pending before various High Courts as on 24.03.2025 is at *Annexure-I.*

The reasons for non-compliance with the orders in contempt cases pending before the Supreme Court and various High Courts are not available with the Government. As far as the Government of India is concerned, the responsibility of implementation of court orders rests with the respective administrative Ministries / Departments.

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4799 FOR ANSWER ON 28.03.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CONTEMPT CASES'.

Contempt cases pending in High Courts as on 24.03.2025

Sl. No.	Name of High Court	Contempt Cases pending
1.	Allahabad	24,376
2.	Bombay	9,394
3.	Calcutta	24,886
4.	Gauhati	1,933
5.	Telangana	13,957
6.	Andhra Pradesh	15,679
7.	Chhattisgarh	826
8.	Delhi	3,788
9.	Gujarat*	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	483
11.	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	5,244
12.	Jharkhand	1,738
13.	Karnataka	2,384
14.	Kerala	3,715
15.	Madhya Pradesh	10,892
16.	Manipur	210
17.	Meghalaya	74
18.	Punjab and Haryana	4,959
19.	Rajasthan	7,252
20.	Sikkim	4
21.	Tripura	50
22.	Uttarakhand	1,066
23.	Madras*	-
24.	Orissa	10,663
25.	Patna *	-
Total		1,43,573

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)
*Data Not Available on NJDG Portal.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *487
ANSWERED ON – 04/04/2025

JS(NKM)
(J-II)

FAMILY COURTS

***487. Shri Selvam G:**
Shri CN Annadurai:

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

(a) the number of family courts functioning in Tamil Nadu;
(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new family courts where these have not been established yet and if so, the details thereof and the timeline for implementation, district-wise in Tamil Nadu;
(c) whether the Government is aware of the challenges faced by family courts in handling matrimonial and custody cases, if so, the details of such challenges including shortage of judges, infrastructure constraints and procedural delays;
(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the functioning of family courts in the country;
(e) whether the Government has encouraged the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms such as mediation and counseling in family courts, if so, the details of such initiatives and their success rate; and
(f) the plan of the Government to further integrate ADR mechanisms to reduce the burden on the courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *487 FOR THE 04th APRIL, 2025 REGARDING 'FAMILY COURTS'

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

As per the information received from the High Courts, as on 28.02.2025, 914 Family Courts are functional across the country including 40 Family Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu. The State/UT-wise number of functional Family Court, is at **Annexure**.

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

As per Section 6 of the aforesaid Act, it is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, in consultation with their respective High Court, to determine the number and categories of counsellors, officers, and other employees required to assist a Family Court in discharge of its functions and provide the Family Court with such counsellors, officers and other employees as it may think fit.

Further, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 28.02.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 28.02.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 736.11 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 28.02.2025, 857 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,13,000 cases.

vi. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

vii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

viii. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. 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 four years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
TOTAL	**19,62,73,548**	**4,83,08,835**	**24,45,82,383**

ix. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
TOTAL	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

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

(e) & (f): The Government is promoting alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms including mediation and counseling in family courts to facilitate amicable settlements and reduce litigation burdens, 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. The Government is further taking policy and legislative interventions, to strengthen these mechanisms and make them more efficacious and expeditious.

Section 9 of the Family Courts Act, 1984, mandates Family Courts to make efforts for settlement before proceeding with litigation, emphasizing the importance of mediation and conciliation in resolving family disputes.

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Annexure

The State/UT- wise details of number of functional Family Courts as on 28.02.2025

S.No	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Functional Family Courts
1	Andhra Pradesh	16
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	7
5	Bihar	39
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0
9	Delhi	30
10	Goa	0
11	Gujarat	108
12	Haryana	33
13	Himachal Pradesh	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	4
15	Jharkhand	30
16	Karnataka	41
17	Kerala	37
18	Ladakh	2
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	64
21	Maharashtra	51
22	Manipur	4
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	0
25	Nagaland	2
26	Odisha	30
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	34
29	Rajasthan	50
30	Sikkim	6
31	Tamil Nadu	40
32	Telangana	22
33	Tripura	9
34	Uttar Pradesh	189
35	Uttarakhand	27
36	West Bengal	6
	TOTAL	914

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *488
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

JS (Appts.)

Supreme Court Bench in Tamil Nadu

***488 THIRU THANGA TAMILSELVAN:**
DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu or lawyers fraternity to set up a Supreme Court Bench in Tamil Nadu which is a very long pending demand from the Southern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *488 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING "SUPREME COURT BENCH IN TAMIL NADU"

(a) and (b): 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.

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 495
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

ADR Cell

Reform in Arbitration and Mediation

*495. Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:
Shri Balabhadra Majhi:

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

(a) the manner in which the Government is ensuring efficiency and speed in arbitration and mediation proceedings;
(b) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance the enforcement of arbitral awards, both domestic and international; and
(c) whether the Government is conducting funded programs to train and certify mediators and arbitrators, 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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *495 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING "REFORM IN ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION"

(a) and (b) 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 Government is further taking policy and legislative interventions, to strengthen these mechanisms and make them more efficacious and expeditious. The major initiatives, steps and measures taken by the Central Government over the years in this regard include;

(i) 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 efficacious 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 be established and developed.

(ii) The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide *inter-alia* 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.

(iii) The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment of the 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 has since been established and aims to inspire confidence amongst parties, both domestic and international, by providing a neutral dispute resolution platform for resolution of commercial disputes

through arbitration. The Centre has also notified the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Arbitration) Regulations, 2023 to facilitate conduct of domestic and international arbitrations with a focus on efficient and time-bound arbitration process. The Chamber of Arbitration established under Section 28 of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 continues to empanel reputed arbitrators, both for domestic and international arbitrations. The Centre is envisaged to become a model arbitral institution in the country, thereby paving the way for enhancing the quality of institutional framework for arbitration.

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

(c) Section 15 of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 provides for the functions of the Centre and *inter-alia* states that the Centre shall strive to impart training in alternative dispute resolution and related matters to those handling arbitration, conciliation and mediation. Facilitating training and capacity building for professionals in the field of ADR, including arbitration and mediation, is presently, continuously being done by the India International Arbitration Centre, by organizing conferences, seminars and trainings for stakeholders including professionals as well as public and private entities.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5526
ANSWERED ON – 04/04/2025

JS(NKH)
(T-II)

CASES AGAINST MPs

5526. Shri Devesh Shakya:

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

(a) the total number of cases registered against MPs in Uttar Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) the nature of these crimes along with their classification in terms of serious and petty crimes;

(c) the number of cases where Members of Parliament were found guilty and the conviction rate thereof;

(d) the number of cases where Members of Parliament were discharged or acquitted;

(e) whether the Government has taken any step to expedite the cases against MPs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): In pursuance of orders dated November 1, 2017 and December 14, 2017 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) 699/2016 (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs. Union of India & Anr.), the Union Government facilitated setting up of 12 Special Courts in 11 States (2 in NCT of Delhi and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal) for expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs. As of 28.02.2025, 10 such Special Courts are functional in 9 States (Special courts of Bihar and Kerala were discontinued as per the Apex Court's direction dated 04.12.2018). The Hon'ble Supreme Court oversees the performance of these courts, while the Government of India funds them upto Rs.65.00 lakh per court per annum, on request by the State Government.

As per information made available by the Allahabad High Court, the number of cases against Member of Parliament (MPs) in District Courts of Uttar Pradesh, as on 22.03.2025, along with the required classification is given as under:

Year	No. of cases registered against MPs	No. of cases of serious criminal offences against MPs	No. of cases of Petty Criminal offences against MPs	No. of cases in which MPs were discharged or acquitted	No. of cases in which MPs were found guilty
2025*	23	49	27	7	0
2024	36	50	36	16	0
2023	49	66	35	21	10
2022	136	82	39	24	7
2021	108	70	21	12	4
2020	105	65	25	4	3

*as on 22.03.2025

(e) and (f): To reduce overall pendency of cases, including those involving MPs, a number of steps including the following are being taken by the Allahabad High Court:

- Actual verification of pending cases and correct data feeding of pending and disposed off cases.
- For expeditious disposal of old cases of years upto 1980, listing of the matters before appropriate bench and if necessary, by constituting special benches.
- For the matters from the year 1981 to 1990, the same are being taken before Hon'ble Courts with request to Hon'ble Judges to take these matters every day and make all endeavor to decide them. For the cases from the year 1991 onwards, five-year plans are being made for giving special attention to cases in phases i.e. 1991 to 1995, 1996 to 2000 and so on.
- Listing of only such cases before the Hon'ble Courts which are ripe for final hearing or where such orders have to be passed which may affect the rights of the parties in one way or other. Where merely ministerial work is required and no effective judicial order is required to be passed such as sending notice to the parties, summoning lower court records (LCR), ordering for the preparation of Paper-book, serving notice on accused, obtaining report whether accused is dead or alive etc., such cases are not listed before Hon'ble Court. Instead, such cases are listed before a few Judicial Officers on special duty for carrying out these minor ministerial work.

- Constitution of Single and Division Benches as per requirement and proper allocation of work to Benches and utilization of available Judicial expertise in discipline.
- In order to speed up the listing and disposal of cases in High Court, cases are being classified for being listed in bunches.
- In order to dispense expeditious justice in respect of particular type of cases or persons, the Supreme Court (Expedited) cases and the cases involving Senior Citizens are listed on the top of the list.
- So as to completely eliminate the old pendency, cases are listed in a serial, starting with the oldest.
- Of late, cases in which lower court proceedings have been stayed are being listed before the Hon'ble Courts.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5530
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th APRIL, 2025

Leg. II Sec. (LS)

Linking of Aadhaar with EPIC

5530. Dr. M P Abdussamad Samadani:

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated the process of linking Aadhaar with the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to prevent electoral fraud and ensure accuracy in voter records;
(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard, including the number of voters who have linked their Aadhaar with EPIC so far;
(c) whether any concerns regarding privacy, data security, or voter exclusion have been raised in connection with this linking process; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address these concerns while ensuring fair and transparent 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) and (b): The Election Commission of India has informed that the Representation of the People Act, 1950 as amended by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, allows Electoral Registration Officers

to require the existing or prospective elector to provide the Aadhaar number for the purpose of establishing identity on a voluntary basis. The Election Commission *vide* its instruction dated 4th July, 2022, has launched the programme to collect the Aadhaar number of existing and prospective electors on a voluntary basis from 1st August, 2022 in all States and Union territories and no Election Photo Identity Card has yet been linked with Aadhaar.

(c) and (d): The Election Commission has informed that it is voluntary to submit Aadhaar number with Voter ID and consent is obtained from the electors for Aadhaar in Form 6B. Under article 324 of the Constitution, the Election Commission is responsible for superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral roll and maintains data with multi-layered security architecture. The electoral data is encrypted in both static and transit.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5534
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

JUSTICE FOR SC/ST AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

JS(NKW)
(A2J)

5534. ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

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

(a) the initiatives taken by the Government to improve access to justice for SC/ST and other marginalized communities, particularly in rural and remote areas of the country;

(b) the details of the schemes which have been launched to provide free or subsidized legal aid to the said communities; and

(c) the total number of people from the said communities who have benefited from these schemes in the last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has taken several initiatives to improve access to justice for citizens including SC/ST and other marginalized communities, particularly in rural and remote areas of the country. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) had been setup under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the LSA Act. This Act

provides that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and Lok Adalats are organized for amicable settlement of disputes. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court.

The details of number of people from SC /ST and other marginalized communities benefited through legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Institutions in the country during the last three financial years; 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December, 2024) are as follows: -

Year	SC	ST	*Other Marginalized Communities	Total
2022-23	93,796	78,556	10,42,417	12,14,769
2023-24	1,07,673	1,00,823	13,41,668	15,50,164
2024-25 (upto December 2024)	89,351	86,824	10,03,625	11,79,800

* Marginalized Communities include Women, Children , In Custody, Persons with Disability, Industrial Workmen, Transgender, Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar, Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster, General whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit, and Others.

In addition to this, the Government is also implementing the scheme titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA), which aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen-centric delivery of pre-litigation advice and other services. Under this scheme, there are three programs namely: a) Tele-Law which connects citizens with the lawyers through mobile app "Tele- Law" and Toll Free number for rendering pre-litigation advice, (b) Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) which facilitates registered beneficiaries to avail pro bono legal representation in courts and (c) under the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, citizens are empowered to know, understand and avail their legal rights, duties and entitlements. Under the Tele-Law Program, 1,10,38,557 beneficiaries have been covered as on 31st March 2025 and the number of people from the SC/ST and other marginalized communities (OBCs) ,who have benefited from Tele-Law program in the last three years , is as follows:-

Year	SC	ST	OBC	Total
2022-23	6,48,403	3.10,718	5,38,204	14,97,325
2023-24	13,79,780	4,70,347	14,27,018	19,97,145
2024-25 (upto March 2025)	9,46,570	4,07,388	10,02,382	14,54,190

The category-wise data in respect of Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP) is not maintained.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5536

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4th APRIL, 2025

JS (SM) (JR)

GRAM NYAYALAYAS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

5536. Shri G Lakshminarayana:

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

(a) the number of Gram Nyayalayas established and operational State-wise and district-wise in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount of funds allocated and utilized for setting up and functioning of Gram Nyayalayas State-wise and district-wise in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government has identified any challenges in the implementation of Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh, including issues related to infrastructure, Judicial vacancies, or low case disposal rates, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the functioning of Gram Nyayalayas, particularly in backward and tribal regions in said State; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to establish additional Gram Nyayalayas in Andhra Pradesh, and if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 mandates that the State Governments, after consultation with their respective High Courts, may, by

notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats. However, the Act does not make setting up of Gram Nyayalayas mandatory.

As per information provided by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, no Gram Nyayalayas have been operationalized in the State of Andhra Pradesh, as of now. The Government of India had initially allocated a sum of Rs. 4.37 cr during financial year 2020-21 to the 42 notified Gram Nyayalayas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, the State Government has not utilized the said fund as the Gram Nyayalayas have not been operationalized till date. Since no Gram Nyayalayas have been operationalized in the State, the issue of challenges, if any and improving their functioning does not arise.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5560
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04th April 2025

Admin. III (LA)

Twenty-Third Law Commission

5560. Shri Shashank Mani:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up the 23rd Law Commission to review the system of judicial administration and make it more responsive to Contemporary demands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5581
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4TH APRIL, 2025

Leg. II Sec. (LD)

Remote Voting Mechanism for NRIs

5581. Adv. Adoor Prakash:

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to implement remote voting mechanisms for elections in the country to allow the Non-Resident Indians to cast vote from their instant locations; and
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): No such proposal is under active consideration of this Ministry.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5598
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04th APRIL, 2025

Leg. I & See (LD)

Implementation of Reservation for Women in Legislatures

5598. Shri Raja A:

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

(a) the present status of implementation of Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2023 for reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislatures;
(b) whether ratification by the State Legislatures has been obtained for this legislation, if so, the details thereof;
(c) the time frame by which the constituencies of Lok Sabha and Assemblies are likely redrawn and notified for the purpose of women reservation; and
(d) whether there is a possibility of notifying reserved constituencies for women before the next Lok Sabha elections, 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), (c) and (d): Article 334A of the Constitution, inserted by the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, provides that the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People, the Legislative Assembly of a State and the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital

Territory of Delhi shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for 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. Similar amendments have also been incorporated in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 as well as the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

(b): As per article 368 of the Constitution, ratification by the State Legislatures is not required.

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5599
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

ADR cell

Alternative Dispute Resolution

5599. Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma:

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

(a) whether the government is promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to reduce court backlog, especially in Madhya Pradesh, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has established ADR centres in Khajuraho parliamentary constituency including Katni and Panna districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to ensure the success of the initiative; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to address the 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) During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The Government is promoting 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. Various legislative interventions have been carried out to strengthen these mechanisms

and make them more efficacious and expeditious. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation. The major initiatives taken by the Central Government over the years in this regard include amendments to the existing Acts such as Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 in the years 2015, 2019 and 2021 and enactment of new legislations such as India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 and the Mediation Act, 2023. However, no state specific initiatives including for Madhya Pradesh, have been taken by the Government.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 5607
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 04/04/2025

JS(NKN)
(LAPJ)

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES

5607. SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:

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

(a) the measures being taken to strengthen the Legal Aid System in the country along with the functioning of District and State Legal Services Authorities;

(b) the number of advocates empanelled or rendering services in the DSLAs and SLSAs across the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of cases in which they are representing and have represented clients across the country, State-wise;

(d) whether there is a plan to expand free legal aid services to remote and tribal areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that marginalized communities are aware of and can access these services?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) functions at the Supreme Court whereas, there are 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), 708 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 2439 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). The Government extends the Grants-in-

Aid support towards the functioning of the legal services authorities/institutions. 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. 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. Further, All India and Regional Meets are also organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities. The Government of India is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA. Under LADCS Scheme, legal aid is provided with regard to criminal cases only to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. The objective of LADCS Scheme is to strengthen criminal court based legal services, and provide legal services to the beneficiaries in all criminal matters, at trial and appellate stages. As on 31st December 2024, LADC offices are functional in 654 districts across the country and has engaged 5251 staff including 3448 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 3.95 lakh criminal cases.

(b) and (c): The State-wise details of Panel Advocates empanelled or rendering services in various SLSAs and DSLAs across the country and cases in which they are representing and have represented clients across the country during April, 2024 to December, 2024, are at **Annexure-A**.

(d) and (e): Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987 provides for free legal services to the entitled persons across the country including remote and tribal areas. Legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws/schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws and are distributed amongst the people. 12,49,496 and 1,26,966 legal awareness camps and programs organized by Legal Service Authorities during the year 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December 2024) which were attended by around 13.93 crore and 3.06 crore persons respectively.

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Annexure-A

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5607 for answering on 04.04.2025 - Free Legal Aid Services

Statement containing the number of Panel Advocates empanelled or rendering services in various SLSAs and DSLAs across the country and cases in which they are representing and have represented clients across the country during April, 2024 to December, 2024

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Panel Advocates	Client/Cases represented
1	Andman and Nicobar Islands	36	159
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,352	3,050
3	Arunachal Pradesh	157	2,353
4	Assam	601	14,874
5	Bihar	1,940	7,075
6	Chandigarh	426	1,370
7	Chhattisgarh	2,689	6,159
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	32
	Daman & Diu	21	53
9	Delhi	1,617	35,031
10	Goa	241	978
11	Gujarat	2,868	15,755
12	Haryana	1,019	13,975
13	Himachal Pradesh	415	4,166
14	Jammu & Kashmir	578	2,615
15	Jharkhand	1,025	8,444
16	Karnataka	2,827	5,233
17	Kerala	2,043	12,527
18	Ladakh	13	86
19	Lakshadweep	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	2,254	15,627
21	Maharashtra	4,395	21,609
22	Manipur	226	311
23	Meghalaya	152	1,740
24	Mizoram	63	1,813
25	Nagaland	77	532
26	Odisha	2,228	2,088
27	Puducherry	352	469
28	Punjab	689	23,330
29	Rajasthan	1,622	10,508
30	Sikkim	153	693
31	Tamil Nadu	4,406	13,240
32	Telangana	1,891	3,353
33	Tripura	336	1,141
34	Uttar Pradesh	2,476	2,448
35	Uttarakhand	309	4,240
36	West Bengal	3,189	15,387
	Total	**44,692**	**252,465**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5633
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

55(UM)
(NP)

LEGAL REFORMS

5633. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) the measures taken by the Government to improve access to justice for citizens, including initiatives to address delays, reduce pendency and enhance the overall efficiency of the justice delivery system;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to address the challenges faced by the judiciary, as highlighted in reports by the Economic Survey and NITI Aayog, including issues related to infrastructure, manpower and technology; and

(c) whether the Government acknowledge the need for comprehensive legal reforms to keep pace with contemporary developments and emerging challenges and if so, the initiatives that have been undertaken to review and update existing laws and regulations?

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 recognises the need for comprehensive legal reforms and periodic review of existing laws and regulations to keep pace with contemporary developments and emerging challenges. The Government

has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases for addressing the challenges faced by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs.11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing

facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 28.02.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 28.02.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs.736.11 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iv. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 31.03.2025, 67 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1034 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.03.2025	25,791	20,459

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 28.02.2025, 857 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,13,000 cases.

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

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act,

1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. 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 four years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	19,62,73,548	4,83,08,835	24,45,82,383

x. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 5634
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 04/04/2025

JS(WKM)
(LAP)

LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA

5634. DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:
SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISETTI:

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

(a) the total number of beneficiaries who have received free legal aid under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in the last five years, State-wise and category-wise (SCs, STs, women, children, senior citizens and economically weaker sections);

(b) the amount of funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized for legal aid services under NALSA and State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), year-wise since 2019;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of legal aid services,-particularly in rural, tribal, and backward regions, and if so, the key findings of such assessments;

(d) the total number of Legal Aid Clinics and Lok Adalats set up in the past three years and their case disposal rate, State-wise; and

(e) whether the Government plans to enhance legal aid outreach, including any proposals to expand mobile legal aid services or strengthen the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The State/UT-wise and category-wise details of beneficiaries who have received free legal aid services under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 during the last five years; 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December 2024) are at **Annexure- A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5** respectively.

(b) The year wise funds allocated, sanctioned, and utilized for legal aid services under NALSA and State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), since 2019 are as follows:-

Rs. in Crore

Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Sanctioned	Funds Utilised #
2019-20	140.00	140.00	142.50
2020-21	100.00	100.00	100.06
2021-22	145.00	145.00	145.96
2022-23	190.00	190.00	193.09
2023-24	200.00 (National Legal Aid Fund)	194.50	199.31
	200.00 (Legal Aid Defence Counsel System Scheme)	200.00	199.97
2024-25	200.000 (National Legal Aid Fund)	200.000	199.92*
	147.925 (Legal Aid Defense Counsel System Scheme)	147.925	147.925

* As on 29.03.2025

The amount includes 'cost receipts' received under the orders of any court or from any other source as provided under the LSA Act, 1987.

(c) The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statuary body under the LSA Act 1987. NALSA regularly conducts review meetings with State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) across India to assess the impact of legal aid services. Simultaneously, all-India meetings of legal services authorities are held to evaluate the overall functioning of legal aid institutions. During these meetings, officials from District Legal Service Authorities provide valuable feedback on the effectiveness of legal aid services.

(d) The details of Legal Aid Clinics set up across the country during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Legal Aid Clinics
2022-23	11711
2023-24	11384
2024-25 (upto December 2024)	12647

The State/UT-wise and year-wise details of Lok Adalats organized, cases received and cases disposed of by National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) during the last five years are at **Annexure-B, Annexure-C** and **Annexure-D** respectively.

(e) NALSA is consistently working to enhance the accessibility and outreach of legal aid services, incorporating technology-driven initiatives to ensure that legal assistance reaches those in need. One such effort was undertaken following the Supreme Court's judgment in *Suhas Chakma v. Union of India*, wherein NALSA took proactive steps to publicize its toll-free helpline number, 15100, across the country. This initiative involved placing the number in various public spaces to maximize visibility and ensure that individuals, particularly those from marginalized communities, could easily seek legal assistance. NALSA continues to provide ongoing support to SLSAs and DLSAs to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Annexure-A1

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987 FROM DURING THE YEAR 2020-2021

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	SC	ST	Women	Children	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	14	0	0	14
2	Andhra Pradesh	56	16	239	7	246	564
3	Arunachal Pradesh	181	787	719	11	23	1721
4	Assam	86	151	2467	111	744	3559
5	Bihar	1132	260	3622	535	1358	6907
6	Chandigarh	14	0	530	121	175	840
7	Chhattisgarh	2364	7642	1580	169	5682	17437
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	1	8	0	0	9
	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	356	12	10605	853	2785	14611
10	Goa	2	0	478	1	110	591
11	Gujarat	545	326	2588	162	1000	4621
12	Haryana	265	0	3253	133	1188	4839
13	Himachal Pradesh	165	15	1111	27	286	1604
14	Jammu & Kashmir	384	153	1951	393	1845	4726
15	Jharkhand	4964	4324	8132	2118	2584	22122
16	Karnataka	4121	2684	4369	205	1066	12445
17	Kerala	529	182	4240	338	2415	7704
18	Ladakh	3	5	0	0	40	48
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	9471	9861	17950	5448	6445	49175
21	Maharashtra	1127	543	4640	147	2528	8985
22	Manipur	1265	6575	4805	927	1385	14957
23	Meghalaya	125	1038	273	25	37	1498
24	Mizoram	16	854	288	2	0	1160
25	Nagaland	290	2036	647	207	209	3389
26	Odisha	662	414	1689	23	656	3444
27	Puducherry	11	0	74	70	33	188
28	Punjab	2508	5	6428	207	3932	13080
29	Rajasthan	98	46	519	5540	299	6502
30	Sikkim	11	62	316	21	46	456
31	Tamil Nadu	864	248	4452	163	3044	8771
32	Telangana	49	13	646	9	362	1079
33	Tripura	176	158	1085	34	248	1701
34	Uttar Pradesh	343	5	620	107	303	1378
35	Uttarakhand	69	49	722	8	250	1098
36	West Bengal	1083	599	4594	368	6271	12915
	Total	**33335**	**39064**	**95654**	**18490**	**47595**	**234138**

Annexure-A2

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987 FROM DURING THE YEAR 2021-2022

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	SC	ST	Women	Children	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	22	0	2	24
2	Andhra Pradesh	133	43	725	26	684	1611
3	Arunachal Pradesh	242	821	740	114	28	1945
4	Assam	7822	14017	10352	2478	23381	58050
5	Bihar	15335	517	18372	7525	63666	105415
6	Chandigarh	17	0	744	131	326	1218
7	Chhattisgarh	3753	8459	6821	663	4902	24598
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	2	12	0	0	15
	Daman & Diu	1	0	13	0	0	14
9	Delhi	723	7	16496	2857	7366	27449
10	Goa	3	3	495	4	309	814
11	Gujarat	1354	773	6074	259	3755	12215
12	Haryana	730	0	5516	206	2420	8872
13	Himachal Pradesh	351	69	2510	63	772	3765
14	Jammu & Kashmir	211	331	2474	119	2100	5235
15	Jharkhand	15346	28628	63113	11570	46194	164851
16	Karnataka	5835	5767	5975	315	1200	19092
17	Kerala	1037	253	7261	643	3130	12324
18	Ladakh	48	1479	325	43	0	1895
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	819053	1096264	316946	137320	480489	2850072
21	Maharashtra	1656	785	9366	359	4105	16271
22	Manipur	1558	7212	6648	1174	1201	17793
23	Meghalaya	21	698	447	204	59	1429
24	Mizoram	104	1700	414	43	17	2278
25	Nagaland	471	3934	1763	649	396	7213
26	Odisha	1187	1095	2299	23	1127	5731
27	Puducherry	30	3	161	135	61	390
28	Punjab	2429	7	8184	254	5976	16850
29	Rajasthan	144	51	897	5070	472	6634
30	Sikkim	29	100	425	26	67	647
31	Tamil Nadu	1281	299	7279	270	5887	15016
32	Telangana	89	33	1244	46	1426	2838
33	Tripura	246	154	1490	36	390	2316
34	Uttar Pradesh	5983	6	27452	98	4675	38214
35	Uttarakhand	142	22	1060	37	471	1732
36	West Bengal	2066	693	7093	1128	7933	18913
	Total	**889431**	**1174225**	**541208**	**173888**	**674987**	**3453739**

Annexure-A3

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987 FROM DURING THE YEAR 2022-2023

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	SC	ST	Women	Children	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0	34	0	2	37
2	Andhra Pradesh	202	65	1012	72	1106	2457
3	Arunachal Pradesh	460	1671	1234	10	35	3410
4	Assam	1184	2084	4070	682	2627	10647
5	Bihar	10344	1347	17148	6912	1699	37450
6	Chandigarh	10	0	956	121	338	1425
7	Chhattisgarh	3698	7842	4672	372	4514	21098
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	18	0	0	19
	Daman & Diu	4	2	9	0	1	16
9	Delhi	1341	36	19175	523	9849	30924
10	Goa	7	56	772	7	597	1439
11	Gujarat	2494	1369	7712	381	5298	17254
12	Haryana	645	0	5618	246	2074	8583
13	Himachal Pradesh	436	78	2590	181	779	4064
14	Jammu & Kashmir	503	308	2110	175	912	4008
15	Jharkhand	9387	12339	19712	5331	492	47261
16	Karnataka	4642	2846	8129	359	2053	18029
17	Kerala	681	210	9567	1026	2397	13881
18	Ladakh	10	357	160	12	13	552
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	14819	14597	32930	19048	10467	91861
21	Maharashtra	2077	760	11930	424	4774	19965
22	Manipur	1090	9300	7413	1491	1100	20394
23	Meghalaya	22	1134	327	49	81	1613
24	Mizoram	14	1990	642	0	95	2741
25	Nagaland	406	3271	1369	472	324	5842
26	Odisha	1121	838	2534	17	890	5400
27	Puducherry	23	0	180	197	77	477
28	Punjab	3912	37	11607	292	8459	24307
29	Rajasthan	212	75	1122	6352	591	8352
30	Sikkim	22	95	376	18	79	590
31	Tamil Nadu	2093	302	9682	201	6599	18877
32	Telangana	117	45	1423	172	1579	3336
33	Tripura	417	447	2010	128	700	3702
34	Uttar Pradesh	5265	2	1569	156	3053	10045
35	Uttarakhand	122	16	1001	36	482	1657
36	West Bengal	2587	1370	9680	1054	11332	26023
	Total	**70369**	**64889**	**200493**	**46517**	**85468**	**467736**

Annexure-A4

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987 FROM DURING THE YEAR 2023-2024

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	SC	ST	Women	Children	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	42	0	14	56
2	Andhra Pradesh	318	75	983	61	1128	2565
3	Arunachal Pradesh	628	2006	1453	84	41	4212
4	Assam	1254	3098	6168	2366	8922	21808
5	Bihar	7306	1270	15307	6889	2575	33347
6	Chandigarh	15	0	1355	238	692	2300
7	Chhattisgarh	6884	12701	9621	544	8489	38239
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	6	21	0	0	29
	Daman & Diu	4	2	14	1	4	25
9	Delhi	1705	16	22631	2761	12984	40097
10	Goa	6	4	790	4	480	1284
11	Gujarat	3825	2716	11560	565	7981	26647
12	Haryana	1568	0	7818	468	3151	13005
13	Himachal Pradesh	547	143	3195	90	897	4872
14	Jammu & Kashmir	757	398	4082	510	2759	8506
15	Jharkhand	21387	27451	47687	14730	2534	113789
16	Karnataka	6751	3876	11955	932	3210	26724
17	Kerala	2789	441	15812	3899	5822	28763
18	Ladakh	29	333	105	3	0	470
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	30163	25563	41291	19955	20759	137731
21	Maharashtra	2298	635	17566	964	5823	27286
22	Manipur	751	8585	7621	2487	2881	22325
23	Meghalaya	27	716	490	68	81	1382
24	Mizoram	4	2528	537	62	62	3193
25	Nagaland	373	2342	557	137	510	3919
26	Odisha	1375	1073	3264	39	1967	7718
27	Puducherry	26	0	181	256	49	512
28	Punjab	5287	28	13714	419	9968	29416
29	Rajasthan	333	132	1337	6274	938	9014
30	Sikkim	32	118	553	18	127	848
31	Tamil Nadu	1881	782	10962	178	7186	20989
32	Telangana	131	66	2066	334	3198	5795
33	Tripura	795	831	3732	286	1610	7254
34	Uttar Pradesh	2776	83	2487	1654	4964	11964
35	Uttarakhand	626	215	2358	846	1570	5615
36	West Bengal	5020	2590	14423	1404	18516	41953
	Total	**107673**	**100823**	**283738**	**69526**	**141892**	**703652**

Annexure-A5

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITED THROUGH LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT, 1987 FROM DURING THE YEAR 2024-2025 (upto December 2024)

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	SC	ST	Women	Children	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	56	0	18	74
2	Andhra Pradesh	120	10	455	70	553	1208
3	Arunachal Pradesh	482	963	593	46	10	2094
4	Assam	265	315	1878	110	2646	5214
5	Bihar	105	28	283	159	188	763
6	Chandigarh	14	0	521	78	196	809
7	Chhattisgarh	537	421	1409	67	337	2771
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	4	20	0	0	25
	Daman & Diu	5	3	19	2	6	35
9	Delhi	912	16	11989	2186	5012	20115
10	Goa	9	17	483	4	247	760
11	Gujarat	1114	387	4958	861	2521	9841
12	Haryana	371	0	3653	230	1248	5502
13	Himachal Pradesh	377	70	2225	88	507	3267
14	Jammu & Kashmir	82	54	1506	70	360	2072
15	Jharkhand	155	356	539	66	210	1326
16	Karnataka	531	147	1680	147	735	3240
17	Kerala	952	342	5159	1008	2177	9638
18	Ladakh	0	16	58	5	0	79
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	1243	1132	2927	313	1061	6676
21	Maharashtra	891	241	6833	422	2329	10716
22	Manipur	0	10	115	2	97	224
23	Meghalaya	12	408	351	72	105	948
24	Mizoram	26	1015	320	19	0	1380
25	Nagaland	59	237	51	0	50	397
26	Odisha	100	45	737	32	138	1052
27	Puducherry	25	0	117	183	47	372
28	Punjab	1497	0	5713	239	3324	10773
29	Rajasthan	126	46	702	4182	375	5431
30	Sikkim	13	105	343	17	88	566
31	Tamil Nadu	561	111	2545	177	1889	5283
32	Telangana	110	43	641	8	436	1238
33	Tripura	42	60	609	51	130	892
34	Uttar Pradesh	166	0	119	30	445	760
35	Uttarakhand	75	10	816	39	265	1205
36	West Bengal	269	117	2582	828	1657	5453
	Total	**11247**	**6730**	**63005**	**11811**	**29407**	**122200**

Annexure-B

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

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

S.No.	Name of the State / UT Authority	2022		2023		2024	
		Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of	Cases received	Cases disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5555	3310	5933	1536	7594	2976
2	Andhra Pradesh	1026449	647956	982779	671612	497317	262449
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7938	1071	6837	990	8028	1771
4	Assam	707744	113989	963744	164445	1079328	179325
5	Bihar	2594655	305483	2868992	357765	3183423	355600
6	Chandigarh	77646	15569	96578	63764	59511	36743
7	Chhattisgarh	1539971	1125318	2105736	1664237	5141101	4634630
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4343	1323	8456	982	8228	724
	Daman & Diu	1959	215	43579	19650	23371	8234
9	Delhi	617852	535025	817332	671278	852367	665892
10	Goa	24461	3934	23018	3505	26816	4052
11	Gujarat	2731581	1185571	3926438	1863177	4410203	2161033
12	Haryana	1100069	673487	1343620	985650	1834082	1376486
13	Himachal Pradesh	255681	111150	368230	150181	365995	182024
14	Jammu & Kashmir	459202	390496	530332	404665	727975	679992
15	Jharkhand	1386756	1121405	3053483	2822947	5375328	5171277
16	Karnataka	5167842	3444607	17195581	14840452	15925526	14369064
17	Kerala	395978	136101	285372	57726	311233	59020
18	Ladakh	1948	1444	2796	1781	3026	2150
19	Lakshadweep	318	129	107	41	183	42
20	Madhya Pradesh	3125248	419776	3489492	536105	3389490	499888
21	Maharashtra	34223486	4754239	27444014	3543736	58086210	4675264
22	Manipur	1905	1343	636	437	1161	1003
23	Meghalaya	5318	956	4277	680	4506	915
24	Mizoram	13529	4432	10757	4087	6745	1230
25	Nagaland	3229	888	2566	801	2911	1021
26	Odisha	821017	337065	898167	348288	1323513	758705
27	Puducherry	21110	6405	23240	6297	25497	4331
28	Punjab	824437	392256	1140074	760712	1524941	1161869
29	Rajasthan	6685251	4572315	19870336	16586071	15188298	12303117
30	Sikkim	402	232	263	126	246	129
31	Tamil Nadu	840700	447536	704748	355762	769962	338520
32	Telangana	1622035	1611677	5634105	5591849	14750839	14693814
33	Tripura	30126	4814	50635	15724	79365	42910
34	Uttar Pradesh	30114718	18698973	47350615	31644594	48137476	38487330
35	Uttarakhand	100809	67438	116672	85032	98566	86813
36	West Bengal	1078663	788082	1445470	1115532	1739032	1315776
	Grand Total	**97619931**	**41926010**	**142815010**	**85342217**	**184969393**	**104526119**

Annexure-C

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

Statement containing the information of cases received and disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in State Lok Adalats during the last three years viz, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25 (upto December, 2024)		
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of	No. of Benches constituted	Cases received	Cases Disposed of
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	4999	16380	6720	80	3511	1825	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	9	576	574	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	30	6536	538	32	5455	1413	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	124	1487	139	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	60	15773	11094	198	131178	123151	184	149892	142568
10	Goa	43	5094	1308	13	1109	245	8	1969	329
11	Gujarat	3805	95554	19717	12	11311	244	2137	24572	9108
12	Haryana	43135	420041	230018	92	37733	29196	0	0	0
13	Himachal Pradesh	142	6798	4198	59	2968	2880	38	1457	1447
14	Jammu & Kashmir	225	88719	76683	134	31572	28170	242	32853	29115
15	Jharkhand	1523	15668	10868	1495	39685	33718	877	1087296	796828
16	Karnataka	229	35802	2632	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Kerala	607	85191	23246	657	108894	26231	428	39532	9515
18	Ladakh	4	294	240	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	3	32	3	1	2	1	1	4	2
20	Madhya Pradesh	1242	14064	5367	1472	60425	48996	835	7609	1752
21	Maharashtra	30	2954	341	38	6432	580	4	21	1
22	Manipur	4	91	43	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	41	3855	1202	12	273	94	48	1779	524
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	6	135624	112422	3	284068	244230	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	47	13781	743	38	10770	492	17	6845	266
28	Punjab	6	20	15	154	6133	2268	0	0	0
29	Rajasthan	1202	35255	1628	1086	40751	1039	723	22919	687
30	Sikkim	150	1513	887	143	1111	784	104	918	515
31	Tamil Nadu	1295	119811	16369	1336	196315	34744	306	54461	3466
32	Telangana	2604	32367	25365	2474	177182	171817	1718	31254	13897
33	Tripura	19	8033	2492	62	39021	25637	35	19798	13080
34	Uttar Pradesh	30	1768325	259125	172	1020023	411941	224	151801	59246
35	Uttarakhand	125	56459	26498	102	37193	17407	59	13536	5675
36	West Bengal	454	17167	10830	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	**62194**	**3003269**	**851309**	**9865**	**2253115**	**1207103**	**7988**	**1648516**	**1088021**

Annexure-D

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5634 FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING LEGAL AID SERVICES UNDER NALSA.

Statement containing the information of cases received and disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in Permanent Lok Adalats during the last three years viz, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

S. No	Name of the State / UT Authority	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25 (upto December, 2024)		
		No of Sitting	Cases received	Cases settled	No of Sitting	Cases received	Cases settled	No of Sitting	Cases received	Cases settled
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1058	387	558	1349	1479	1134	935	1010	1083
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	213	66	56	195	133	97	108	40	19
5	Bihar	313	235	157	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	241	7563	10945	239	11322	11511	163	7424	7117
7	Chhattisgarh	1224	2003	2028	1174	6899	6749	753	7654	5559
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	773	18288	18682	781	19682	19337	527	14110	13917
10	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	479	53
11	Gujarat	1	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Haryana	3416	70102	72440	3659	101318	107362	2391	45375	33664
13	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jharkhand	6216	30114	26154	5826	29779	35715	3777	18844	16872
16	Karnataka	904	7338	4588	603	4709	4190	894	3975	5594
17	Kerala	226	369	2564	415	262	1527	246	248	359
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1176	514	608	1071	264	409	602	154	207
21	Maharashtra	1017	1370	1208	1023	779	485	656	467	714
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	753	1358	1612	1041	1344	1891	777	1541	1200
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	4902	12907	14545	4969	21521	20279	3328	13427	12047
29	Rajasthan	4435	4804	5072	4230	5382	5799	3416	3493	3168
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	1121	597	528	1119	439	427	706	312	314
32	Telangana	118	14101	7540	104	12136	12746	47	5867	7086
33	Tripura	70	165	162	97	152	157	77	155	121
34	Uttar Pradesh	3720	2637	1173	4476	2713	2516	2513	1278	1164
35	Uttarakhand	590	832	510	649	411	432	474	405	385
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	32487	175758	171138	33020	220724	232763	25148	159577	161277

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5644
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

JJ(HM)
(NM)

STRUCTURAL ISSUES IN JUDICIARY

5644. SHRI ADITYA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken necessary steps to address the structural issues affecting the judiciary such as the pendency of cases, archaic procedures and the culture of adjournments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The structural issues such as the pendency of cases, archaic procedures and the culture of adjournments is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up

in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs.11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

iii. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 28.02.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to

lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 28.02.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs.736.11 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

iv. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 31.03.2025, 67 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1034 new Judges were appointed and 794 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.03.2025	25,791	20,459

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 28.02.2025, 857 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,13,000 cases.

vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, and The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019.

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of

disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. 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 four years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	**19,62,73,548**	**4,83,08,835**	**24,45,82,383**

x. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities

available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	**1,10,05,420**		**1,08,69,661**	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

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

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5649
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

JS (Lrmo)
(NM)

SHORTAGE OF JUDGES IN COURTS

5649. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

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

(a) whether the number of judges in the country is very low, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the pending cases in courts have been on rise due to shortage of judges;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken to address the said issue;and

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to open Law Colleges for women in Bihar and if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level.

Appointments of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution. As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Chief Justice of the High Court is required to initiate the proposal for filling up of vacancy of a High Court Judge six months prior to the occurrence of vacancy. All the names recommended by High Court Collegium are sent with the views of the Government to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons, who are recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of High Courts. As on 01.04.2025, against the sanctioned strength of 1122 Judges in the High Courts, 766 Judges are working. Recommendations against 216 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums. Since May 2014 till 04.02.2025, 67 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and 1034 Judges have been appointed to various High Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts, following timelines set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its January 2007 order in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

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

(e): The Advocates Act, 1961 is the relevant legislation for laying down the standards of Legal Education and Lawyers in India and it grants the powers to BCI to recognize Universities and approve Colleges/Centers of Legal Education for the purpose of imparting legal education upon receipt of affiliation from the Universities. The Law Universities/Private Law Colleges have been established under the Acts enacted by the respective State Legislatures. The Government of India has no role to play regarding opening of Law Colleges for women in Bihar.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5661
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

JS(LM)
(NM)

DIGITIZATION IN COURTS

5661. KM. SUDHA R:

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

(a) the total number of civil and criminal cases that are pending in the Supreme Court, the High Courts and subordinate courts for more than 40 years, State-wise and High Court-wise;

(b) the amount of fund allocated, utilized for the modernization of courts, State-wise and High Court-wise;

(c) the status of documents digitization programme in the country, State-wise and High Court-wise; and

(d) whether the Government has proposed to create any additional benches of High Courts in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 03 civil cases and 0 criminal cases are pending for more than 40 years before the Supreme Court as on 02.04.2025. Further, a total of 20,093 civil cases and 3,506 criminal cases are pending for more than 40 years before High Courts as on 28.03.2025. The details of these cases are given

High Court-wise at ***Annexure-I.*** Furthermore, 4,638 civil cases and 5,567 criminal cases are pending for more than 40 years before the Subordinate Courts of the States/UTs as on 28.03.2025. The State/UT-wise details of these cases are at ***Annexure-II.***

(b): Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs.11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The details of State-wise fund allocation and utilization are at ***Annexure-III.***

Further, e-Courts Mission Mode project, a Central Sector Scheme for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the Indian courts is being implemented. It aims at ushering a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, on-line and paperless courts, through digitization of the entire court records and bringing in universalization of e-filing / e-payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Seva Kendras. The Government has demonstrated its commitment in modernizing the judiciary with advanced digital infrastructure by significantly increasing budget allocations since 2015. The Union Cabinet in September, 2023 has approved eCourts Phase III (2023-2027) at an outlay of ₹7,210 crore, which is over four times the funding for Phase II. Under eCourts Phase – III, an amount of Rs. 1200 crore was allocated for FY 24-25. The High Court wise expenditure details are at ***Annexure – IV.***

(c): Government of India's resolve to promote digitization in the subordinate courts is evident from the significant outlay of Rs. 2038.40 crores

earmarked under the eCourts Project Phase III. Digitization of court records is at the core of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement initiatives in judicial domain. For effective hearing of court proceedings in virtual/paperless courts, availability of court records in digitized form is imperative. Accordingly, a sub-committee was constituted by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India for preparing a Digital Preservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitization of court records and preservation of legacy data and the same was approved by the Supreme Court on 21st October 2022.

As per the details provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, 1,99,49,45,317 pages have been digitized in the High Courts and 2,61,48,64,243 pages have been digitized in the District Courts, as on 28.02.2025. The High Court-wise status of the same is at ***Annexure V***. The eCommittee, Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are working closely to ensure that scanning and digitization of records at the district level courts are done at an optimum pace.

(d): High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and the 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 is required to provide necessary financial resources and infrastructural facilities and 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 complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) in any High Court.

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5661 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'DIGITIZATION IN COURTS'.

Sr. No.	Name of High Court	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Allahabad	12368	3459	15827
2	Bombay	8	0	8
3	Calcutta	6127	43	6170
4	Telangana	176	0	176
5	Andhra Pradesh	129	0	129
6	Gujarat	4	0	4
7	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	1	0	1
8	Karnataka	1	0	1
9	Madhya Pradesh	6	0	6
10	Punjab and Haryana	33	1	34
11	Rajasthan	8	3	11
12	Madras	170	0	170
13	Orissa	48	0	48
14	Patna	1014	0	1014
	Total	**20093**	**3506**	**23599**

Source: Data as available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on 28.03.2025

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5661 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'DIGITIZATION IN COURTS'.

Sr No.	State/UTs	Civil	Criminal	Both
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	14	18
2	Assam	9	0	9
3	Bihar	609	568	1177
4	Chhattisgarh	2	0	2
5	Delhi	19	0	19
6	Goa	49	1	50
7	Gujarat	8	1	9
8	Haryana	2	0	2
9	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	3
10	Jharkhand	10	13	23
11	Karnataka	22	0	22
12	Kerala	18	1	19
13	Madhya Pradesh	7	2	9
14	Maharashtra	410	1287	1697
15	Manipur	0	3	3
16	Meghalaya	3	6	9
17	Odisha	11	74	85
18	Puducherry	2	0	2
19	Punjab	1	0	1
20	Rajasthan	73	1	74
21	Tamil Nadu	19	4	23
22	Telangana	1	7	8
23	Tripura	1	16	17
24	Uttar Pradesh	2735	558	3293
25	West Bengal	620	3011	3631
	Total	**4638**	**5567**	**10205**

Source: Data as available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on 28.03.2025

ANNEXURE-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5661 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'DIGITIZATION IN COURTS'.

(As on 28.02.2025)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total funds (Sanctioned/Allocated Since 1993-94 to F.Y 2024-25 Dated. 28-02-2025)	Funds Utilized (Since 1993-94 to F.Y 2024-25 Dated. 28-02-2025)
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14.34	14.34
2.	Andhra Pradesh	272.24	272.24
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	97.96	91.42
4.	Assam	349.76	349.76
5.	Bihar	558.4	558.4
6.	Chandigarh	39.01	37.3
7.	Chhattisgarh	224.91	224.91
8.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	9.38	9.38
9.	Delhi	354.4	344.56
10.	Goa	63.01	52.51
11.	Gujarat	675.17	675.17
12.	Haryana	225.93	225.93
13.	Himachal Pradesh	66.24	65
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	282.57	269.87
15.	Jharkhand	267.57	267.57
16.	Karnataka	991.96	991.53
17.	Kerala	248.4	229.42
18.	Ladakh	8.33	8.33
19.	Lakshadweep	0.51	0.37
20.	Madhya Pradesh	863.71	863.71
21.	Maharashtra	1,076.64	1076.64
22.	Manipur	101.51	99.51
23.	Meghalaya	274.71	274.71
24.	Mizoram	103.07	103.07
25.	Nagaland	139.25	139.18
26.	Odisha	250.25	250.25
27.	Puducherry	71.95	65.58
28.	Punjab	602	597.48
29.	Rajasthan	528.87	528.87
30.	Sikkim	59.57	58.47
31.	Tamil Nadu	495.06	467.25
32.	Telangana	58.89	58.89
33.	Tripura	157.58	141.55
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1,756.41	1679.68
35.	Uttarakhand	301.94	297.15
36.	West Bengal	294.81	292.11
	Total	11,886.31	11,682.11

ANNEXURE-IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5661 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'DIGITIZATION IN COURTS'.

S. No.	Name of High Court	Fund Utilised (Rs. In Crore)
1	Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	51.7791
2	Andhra Pradesh	31.7379
3	Bombay (Maharashtra, Goa, Diu & Daman and Nagar Dadar Haveli)	83.1874
4	Calcutta (West Bengal)	27.6514
5	Chhattisgarh	24.1667
6	Delhi	48.1893
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland)	53.7451
8	Gujarat	73.2124
9	Himachal Pradesh	6.8904
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	14.5258
11	Jharkhand	29.217
12	Karnataka	67.4009
13	Kerala	32.607
14	Madhya Pradesh	76.8718
15	Madras (Tamil Nadu & Puducherry)	91.7467
16	Manipur	7.5355
17	Meghalaya	8.4751
18	Orissa (Odisha)	53.2409
19	Patna (Bihar)	89.5528
20	Punjab & Haryana (Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh)	26.0111
21	Rajasthan	34.7246
22	Sikkim	8.9376
23	Telangana	28.57
24	Tripura	7.0494
25	Uttarakhand	19.9543
	Total	996.9802

ANNEXURE-V

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5661 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'DIGITIZATION IN COURTS'.

S. No.	High Court (State/UT)	Total No. of Pages digitized in High Court up to Current month	Total No. of pages digitized (including Taluka Courts) under the concerned High Court
1.	Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)	53,47,89,659	97,45,60,893
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,42,04,781	2,56,91,977
3.	Bombay (Maharashtra, Goa, Diu & Daman and Nagar Dadar Haveli)	3,46,09,102	7,25,424
4.	Calcutta (West Bengal)	4,89,38,686	0
5.	Delhi	22,93,29,647	10,90,01,868
6.	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland)	3,06,62,123	15,71,54,484
7.	Gujarat	5,37,090	82,430
8.	Himachal Pradesh	71,42,331	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	3,92,08,843	54,83,298
10.	Jharkhand	1,51,23,206	75,83,464
11.	Karnataka	2,69,43,999	3,44,31,202
12.	Kerala	5,86,92,719	91,17,722
13.	Madhya Pradesh	22,47,29,014	53,31,95,995
14.	Madras (Tamil Nadu & Puducherry)	14,55,99,531	8,19,05,103
15.	Manipur	52,78,155	48,45,673
16.	Meghalaya	8,45,702	33,31,430
17.	Orissa (Odisha)	4,45,35,424	11,75,81,662
18.	Patna (Bihar)	2,27,97,499	0
19.	Punjab & Haryana (Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh)	27,41,99,318	50,66,96,188
20.	Rajasthan	10,43,40,362	52,25,444
21.	Sikkim	11,61,836	44,10,905
22.	Telangana	10,78,15,504	3,28,19,876
23.	Tripura	63,60,786	6,19,005
24.	Uttarakhand	1,71,00,000	4,00,200
25.	Chhattisgarh	0	0
	Total	1,99,49,45,317	2,61,48,64,243

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5677
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

NUMBER OF SC/ST JUDGES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY AND TRIBUNALS

5677. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

(a) the number of individuals from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities serving in Subordinate Courts specifically in District Courts, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government maintains data regarding the number of Judicial Officers from the said communities serving in the Central and State Tribunals constituted under various statutes, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the appointments of Judges or Judicial Officers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities during the last ten years, State-wise; and

(d) whether the reservation criteria is followed in the process of appointing Judges in Higher Courts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available in the MIS (Management Information System) portal of Department of Justice, the number of Judicial Officers from Scheduled

Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities serving in Subordinate Courts specifically in District Courts, State-wise, as on 02.04.2025 is at ***Annexure-I.***

(b): The number of Judicial Officers from the said communities serving in the Central and State Tribunals constituted under various statutes is not centrally maintained.

(c) & (d): The details of the appointments of Judges or Judicial Officers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities during the last ten years, State-wise are not available in the Department. However, as per the information available on the MIS portal, the working strength of Judicial Officers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in District and Subordinate Courts during the last five years, State-wise 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 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). Accordingly, as per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 719 High Court Judges appointed since 2018, 22 belong to SC category, whereas 16 belong to ST category.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for

appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons, who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Appointments in District and Subordinate Courts fall under the jurisdiction of State Governments and High Courts, as per Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution of India. The recruitment process is governed by the rules framed by State Governments in consultation with High Courts.

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5677 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'NUMBER OF SC/ST JUDGES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY AND TRIBUNALS'.

Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 02.04.2025

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	53	19	23	10	30	3
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	9	0	16	0	7
4	Assam	16	23	12	21	6	7
5	Bihar	129	9	63	5	48	3
6	Chandigarh	7	0	0	0	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	17	45	30	26
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	46	21	12	1	10	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	59	1	50	4	8	0
13	Haryana	31	0	42	0	21	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	8	2	8	4	6	1
15	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	6	7	9	7
16	Jharkhand	15	31	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	77	19	90	20	60	9
18	Kerala	20	0	11	1	11	1
19	Ladakh	1	2	0	4	0	1
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	122	55	62	90	85	92
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	0	6	0	4	0	4
24	Meghalaya	0	15	0	21	0	18
25	Mizoram	0	13	0	17	0	15
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	30	4	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	3	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	118	0	34	0	33	0
30	Rajasthan	64	47	60	52	59	24
31	Sikkim	0	1	0	2	0	5
32	Tamil Nadu	119	5	57	4	35	1
33	Telangana	38	20	15	7	15	13
34	Tripura	5	9	4	7	4	6
35	Uttar Pradesh	214	17	134	15	191	7
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	12	4	18	5
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	1371	403	755	365	724	258

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice.

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5677 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'NUMBER OF SC/ST JUDGES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY AND TRIBUNALS'.

Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 31.12.2020

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	43	16	29	8	16	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13	0	9	0	9
4	Assam	12	18	10	18	0	0
5	Bihar	123	10	77	4	20	1
6	Chandigarh	2	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	20	48	18	29	22	27
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	53	5	1	1	7	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	58	2	46	3	11	1
13	Haryana	39	0	25	0	22	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	10	5	7	1	6	2
15	Jammu and Kashmir	9	6	10	4	5	6
16	Jharkhand	26	62	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	76	14	48	9	44	7
18	Kerala	22	1	5	0	7	0
19	Ladakh	0	4	0	1	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	106	94	71	87	63	54
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	0	2	2	4	0	5
24	Meghalaya	0	20	0	14	0	12
25	Mizoram	0	16	0	14	0	13
26	Nagaland	0	8	0	7	0	11
27	Odisha	13	0	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	76	0	37	0	25	0
30	Rajasthan	92	69	53	40	25	10
31	Sikkim	0	2	0	1	0	4
32	Tamil Nadu	117	4	55	3	41	1
33	Telangana	35	17	11	8	12	6
34	Tripura	5	11	4	5	3	6
35	Uttar Pradesh	234	11	115	10	178	7
36	Uttarakhand	18	4	14	3	14	9
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		1330	466	681	287	565	195

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

Continued on next page....

Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 31.12.2021

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	42	15	23	9	19	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13	0	9	0	9
4	Assam	15	22	7	16	0	0
5	Bihar	115	9	64	5	38	1
6	Chandigarh	2	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23	56	20	30	25	27
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	54	6	14	2	8	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	58	2	46	3	10	0
13	Haryana	38	0	26	0	22	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	7	4	8	2	7	2
15	Jammu and Kashmir	7	9	5	6	8	5
16	Jharkhand	26	61	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	76	11	48	8	49	9
18	Kerala	21	1	9	0	7	0
19	Ladakh	0	4	0	2	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	104	91	69	84	60	59
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	1	5	2	4	1	4
24	Meghalaya	0	20	0	14	0	12
25	Mizoram	0	16	0	13	0	13
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	17	0	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	79	0	38	0	29	0
30	Rajasthan	87	66	37	30	43	20
31	Sikkim	0	2	0	1	0	4
32	Tamil Nadu	121	5	58	3	46	1
33	Telangana	40	22	11	7	15	7
34	Tripura	5	11	4	5	3	6
35	Uttar Pradesh	193	14	155	11	155	7
36	Uttarakhand	20	4	14	3	13	9
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		1291	473	701	271	602	199

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

Continued on next page....

Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 31.12.2022

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	16	32	12	19	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	12	0	11	0	9
4	Assam	15	22	7	16	0	0
5	Bihar	115	9	62	5	35	1
6	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	65	19	31	27	27
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	55	6	9	1	8	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	54	1	50	4	9	0
13	Haryana	38	0	26	0	22	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	9	4	7	2	7	2
15	Jammu and Kashmir	9	8	6	6	7	3
16	Jharkhand	20	55	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	76	15	49	7	59	9
18	Kerala	16	1	13	0	7	1
19	Ladakh	0	2	0	2	0	1
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	125	97	59	81	74	56
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	1	4	1	5	1	4
24	Meghalaya	0	25	0	14	0	15
25	Mizoram	0	16	0	10	0	15
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	17	0	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	79	0	36	0	27	0
30	Rajasthan	65	58	46	29	47	22
31	Sikkim	0	2	0	0	0	5
32	Tamil Nadu	120	5	57	3	43	1
33	Telangana	33	18	17	11	13	7
34	Tripura	5	7	4	9	4	7
35	Uttar Pradesh	193	15	151	11	143	7
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	16	4	15	8
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		1270	470	710	278	612	204

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

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Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 31.12.2023

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	44	17	23	10	28	3
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	9	0	16	0	8
4	Assam	13	15	9	18	0	0
5	Bihar	129	9	63	5	48	3
6	Chandigarh	3	0	0	0	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	26	62	13	29	28	27
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	48	21	8	0	8	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	59	1	50	4	8	0
13	Haryana	48	0	26	0	20	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	8	2	8	4	7	2
15	Jammu and Kashmir	9	7	6	6	5	3
16	Jharkhand	15	36	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	80	16	50	7	58	9
18	Kerala	18	1	12	0	9	1
19	Ladakh	0	3	0	2	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	131	66	78	116	72	54
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	0	6	0	4	0	4
24	Meghalaya	0	25	0	14	0	15
25	Mizoram	0	16	0	10	0	15
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	26	3	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	78	0	37	0	27	0
30	Rajasthan	80	59	50	43	53	23
31	Sikkim	0	2	0	0	0	5
32	Tamil Nadu	119	5	57	4	39	1
33	Telangana	38	20	15	7	15	13
34	Tripura	5	9	4	7	4	6
35	Uttar Pradesh	146	11	134	15	196	7
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	14	4	16	5
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		1279	428	700	329	686	207

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

Continued on next page....

Working strength of SC/ST Judicial Officer in District and Subordinate courts as on 31.12.2024

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Civil Judge(Junior Division)		Civil Judge(Senior Division)		District Judge/DJ)	
		SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	53	19	23	10	30	3
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	9	0	16	0	7
4	Assam	16	23	12	21	6	7
5	Bihar	129	9	63	5	48	3
6	Chandigarh	7	0	0	0	1	0
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	17	45	30	26
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	46	21	12	1	10	1
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	59	1	50	4	8	0
13	Haryana	31	0	42	0	21	0
14	Himachal Pradesh	8	2	8	4	6	1
15	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	6	7	9	8
16	Jharkhand	15	31	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	77	19	90	20	60	9
18	Kerala	20	0	11	1	10	1
19	Ladakh	1	2	0	4	0	1
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	122	55	79	106	66	73
22	Maharashtra	140	2	43	3	44	2
23	Manipur	0	6	0	4	0	4
24	Meghalaya	0	15	0	21	0	18
25	Mizoram	0	13	0	17	0	15
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	30	4	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	3	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	118	0	34	0	33	0
30	Rajasthan	64	47	60	52	59	24
31	Sikkim	0	1	0	2	0	5
32	Tamil Nadu	119	5	57	4	35	1
33	Telangana	38	20	15	7	15	13
34	Tripura	5	9	4	7	4	6
35	Uttar Pradesh	214	17	134	15	193	7
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	12	4	18	5
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		1371	403	772	381	706	240

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5690
ANSWERED ON – 04/04/2025

DISPOSAL CASES IN FAST TRACK COURT

5690. Smt. Malvika Devi:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the disposal of the cases that are in queue for a long time;
(b) the total number of cases solved in the fast track courts during the previous year;
(c) the manner in which the Government plans to implement and make justice accessible to the marginalized communities;
(d) the average number of cases related to cyber crime registered annually in the country along with the number of such cases resolved within a year; and
(e) the manner/mode of resolution of such cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Disposal of pending court cases is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. Some of these initiatives are as under:

I. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

II. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various

stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

III. Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

IV. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 20.03.2025, 67 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1030 new Judges were appointed and 791 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

V. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

VI. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 28.02.2025, 857 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country which have disposed of 11,74,885 cases in 2024. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the

country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of 85,595 cases in 2024.

VII. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

VIII. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute. Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

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

(c): The Government remains committed to make justice accessible to marginalized communities. Some of the measures taken by the Government are as follows:

- National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including beneficiaries covered under Section 12 of the Act. This Act ensures that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been set up from the Taluk level to the Supreme Court. The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include legal aid and advice; legal awareness programmes; legal services/empowerment camps; legal services clinics; legal literacy clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of victim compensation scheme.

- In 2021, a comprehensive, pan-India scheme titled "Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India" (DISHA) was launched for a period of five years (2021- 2026) at

an outlay of Rs. 250 crores. The DISHA scheme aims to provide easy, accessible, affordable and citizen-centric legal services through Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programmes. Under the DISHA scheme, Tele- Law connects citizens with the lawyers through mobile app "TeleLaw" and Toll Free number for rendering pre-litigation advice; Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono services) facilitates registered beneficiaries to avail pro bono legal representation in courts and under the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, citizens are empowered to know, understand and avail their legal rights, duties and entitlements. Till 28th February 2025, DISHA scheme through its various programmes has outreached approximately 2.10 crore beneficiaries in the country.

- Further, Tele- Law services has impacted women (39.4 %), General (24%), OBCs (31%), SCs (31%) and STs (14%) of its total 1,08,69,661 beneficiaries. Moreover, in order to increase the outreach, the Tele Law web portal and Tele- Law application has been translated in 22 scheduled languages. Special endeavours have also been made to increase its outreach through both print and digital media. Further, special efforts have been made to integrate Tele-Law with Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) platform for pre-litigation advice and legal representation in courts. Toll-Free number for citizens through 14454 has been operationalized for instant legal advice and counselling.

(d) & (e): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes crime statistics in its annual publication *"Crime in India."* The latest available report pertains to the year 2022. According to data provided in the last three reports (2020,2021 & 2022), the average number of cyber crime cases registered annually during the period 2020 to 2022 is 56,300. During the same period, the average number of cyber crime cases disposed of by courts annually stands at 6,081.

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

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes, including cyber crimes against women and children in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken steps which, inter-alia, include the following:

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

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

iii. The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System', under I4C, has been launched in year 2021 for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters. A toll-free Helpline number '1930' has been operationalized to get assistance in lodging online cyber complaints.

iv. The state of the art 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (Investigation)' has been established, as a part of the I4C, at New Delhi to provide early stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police. So far, National Cyber Forensics Laboratory (Investigation) has provided its services to State/UT LEAs in around 11,835 cases pertaining to cybercrimes.

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

vi. Seven Joint Cyber Coordination Teams (JCCTs) have been constituted for Mewat, Jamtara, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Vishakhapatnam, and Guwahati under I4C covering the whole country based upon cybercrime hotspots/ areas having multi-jurisdictional issues by on boarding States/UTs to enhance the coordination framework among the Law Enforcement Agencies of the States/UTs. Seven workshops were organized for JCCTs at Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Vishakhapatnam, Lucknow, Ranchi and Chandigarh.

vii. Samanvaya Platform has been made operational to serve as a Management Information System (MIS) platform, data repository and a coordination platform for LEAs for cyber crime data sharing and analytics. It provides analytics based interstate linkages of crimes and criminals, involved in cyber crime complaints in various States/UTs. The module 'Pratibimb' maps locations of criminals and crime infrastructure on a map to give visibility to jurisdictional officers. The module also facilitates seeking and receiving of techno-legal assistance by Law Enforcement Agencies from I4C and other SMEs. It has lead to arrest of 6,046 accused, 17,185 linkages and 36,296 Cyber Investigation assistance request.

viii. To spread awareness on cyber crime, the Central Government has taken steps which, inter-alia, include; dissemination of messages through SMS, I4C social media account i.e. X (formerly Twitter) (@CyberDost), Facebook(CyberDostI4C), Instagram (cyberDostI4C), Telegram(cyberdosti4c), Radio campaign, caller tune, engaged MyGov for publicity in multiple mediums, organizing Cyber Safety and Security Awareness weeks in association with States/UTs, publishing of Handbook for Adolescents/Students, newspaper advertisement on digital arrest scam, announcement in Delhi metros on digital arrest and other modus operandi of cyber criminals, use of social media influencers to create special posts on digital arrest, digital displays on railway stations and airports across, etc.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5691
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

(JS (Apptts.))

Proposal for Indian Judicial Service

5691. Shri N K Premachandran:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish Indian Judicial Service, if so, the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Law Commission recommended for formulation of Indian Judicial Service, if so, the details thereof and the difficulty being faced into implementation;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there are complaints regarding the selection and appointment of judges and judicial officers in judiciary, if so, the action taken to resolve the issue; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to ensure for an independent, transparent judicial system, if so, the action taken to strengthen our judicial system?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which shall not include any post inferior to that of a District Judge. The issue of creation of All India Judicial Service was considered and recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC), known as Justice Shetty Commission.The creation of All India Judicial Service was recommended by Law Commission of India in its 14th

report (1958). Subsequently, the Law Commission reiterated the recommendation in its 77th report (1978) and its 116th report (1986).

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

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/ judicial officers at all levels was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices' Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04thApril, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05thApril, 2015. However, no progress was made in the matter.

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. in a meeting chaired by then Minister of Law and Justice on 16thJanuary, 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. Setting up

AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 22.02.2021.

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

The complaints/representations received, if any, regarding the selection and appointment ofjudicial officers are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, as the case may be.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 5705
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 04/04/2025

JS(NKN)
CLAD

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES IN TRIBAL AND REMOTE AREAS

†5705. SHRI KALI CHARAN SINGH:
DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SMT. MAHIMA KUMARI MEWAR:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SMT. HIMADRI SINGH:
SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:

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

(a) the measures being taken to strengthen the Legal Aid System across the country;

(b) whether Government has any plan to expand free legal aid services to remote and tribal areas in Rajasthan and across the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that marginalized communities are aware of and can access these services?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society as covered under Section 12 of the Act. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) functions at the Supreme Court whereas, there are 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), 708 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 2439 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). The Government extends all support to

strengthen the legal services authorities/institutions in the form of Grants-in-Aid. Funds under Grant-in-Aid are allocated and released to NALSA by the Government on yearly basis.

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. 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. Further, All India and Regional Meets are also organized by NALSA to monitor the performance of Legal Services Authorities.

The Government of India is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme namely; Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme through NALSA. Under LADCS Scheme, legal aid is provided with regard to criminal cases only to the beneficiaries eligible for legal aid under Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987. The objective of LADCS Scheme is to strengthen criminal court based legal services, and provide legal services to the beneficiaries in all criminal matters, at trial and appellate stages. As on 31st December 2024, LADC offices are functional in 654 districts across the country and has engaged 5251 staff including 3448 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto December, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 3.95 lakh criminal cases.

(b) and (c) Section 12 of the LSA Act, 1987 ensures free legal services to the entitled persons across the country including remote and tribal areas in Rajasthan. Legal awareness programmes are held across the country by Legal Service Authorities on various laws and schemes relating to children, labourers, victims of disaster, SC and ST, persons suffering from disability, etc. Legal Services Authorities also prepare booklets and pamphlets in simple language on various laws and are distributed amongst the people. 12,49,496 and 1,26,966 legal awareness camps and programs organized by Legal Service Authorities during the year 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 (upto December 2024) which were attended by around 13.93 crore and 3.06 crore persons respectively.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5723

ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

Impl. cell (LA)

Initiatives to Increase Female Enrolment in Legal Education

5723. Shri Rajmohan Unnithan:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure higher enrolment of women in legal courses as there is a decline in enrolment of females in LL.B. courses;

(b) whether the Government intends to formulate any special scholarships/schemes on par with STEM courses for women to pursue legal education; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Bar Council of India, established under the Advocates Act, 1961, is a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of regulating legal education and the legal profession in India. As per data provided by the Bar Council of India, a total of 2,36,403 candidates registered for the All India Bar Examination-XIX (AIBE-XIX) held in the month of December, 2024 out of which 82,402 were female candidates, constituting 34.85% of total examinees. This reflects a steady participation of women in the post-qualification examination process and indicates a sustained interest in Law as a career.

While there is no statutory reservation under the Advocates Act, 1961, several Central and State Universities, as well as National Law Universities (NLUs), have taken

independent initiatives to promote legal education among women. These include merit cum means scholarships for female candidates, fee concessions, hostel subsidies, and the development of gender inclusive campuses. In some public universities, a limited number of seats are reserved for women under institutional quotas, facilitated by the enabling power of Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution. Additionally, women focused legal awareness programmes are being conducted in rural and semi urban regions to improve access and motivation for legal education.

(b) & (c): With regard to the formulation of special or targeted scholarship schemes specifically for women pursuing legal education, on par with those introduced in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), University Grant Commission (UGC) is implementing the scheme of "Development of Women's Studies in Indian Universities and Colleges". This scheme provides funds for setting up Women Studies Centers (WSCs) in universities and colleges, focusing on teaching, research, curriculum development, training and outreach activities. Currently, while various scholarships for higher education are provided through the University Grants Commission (UGC), Ministry of Education, and other State departments, there is no centrally administered scheme exclusively focused on promoting women's enrolment in law courses.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5725
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

JS(APPTTS.)

Gender Disparity in the Judiciary

5725. Ms. S Jothimani:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce reservation or special incentives for the inclusion of more women in the judiciary, particularly at higher levels, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of any programme or initiatives undertaken to encourage more women to pursue careers in the judiciary and legal profession;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any studies or held consultations regarding gender disparity in judicial appointments and if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken to ensure gender sensitivity in judicial training, legal education and court proceedings?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

The National Judicial Academy (NJA) regularly conducts various programmes to inculcate gender sensitivity in legal training, judicial sensitization and court hearings.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5728
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 4TH APRIL, 2025

Leg. II (LD)

Transparency in Political Funding

5728. Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary:

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

(a) the details of the alternative mechanism that is being considered after the Supreme Court's verdict on Electoral Bonds;
(b) whether the Government mandate full disclosure of political donations, including donor identities and amounts, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to establish an independent regulatory authority for political funding oversight, if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Ministry has consulted stakeholders on new political funding reforms, if so, the details of the recommendations thereof;
(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to prevent foreign influence in political donations and the timeline expected for implementing a new transparent political funding system; and
(f) whether new reforms ensure a level playing field for all political parties, 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 (f): The Department of Economic Affairs has informed that there is no such proposal under consideration.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5743
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04TH APRIL, 2025

PENDENCY OF SC/ST CASES IN ODISHA'S DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS

JS(hm)
NM

5743. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

(a) the total number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, pending in the Odisha High Court till date;

(b) the total number of such cases pending in Odisha, district-wise;

(c) the average duration for which these cases have been pending in both the High Court and district courts;

(d) the number of exclusive special courts established in Odisha for the trial of offences under the said Act and their respective locations; and

(e) the conviction and acquittal rates in cases tried under the said Act, in Odisha during the past five 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) to (e): As per the information provided by the High Court of Orissa,under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (hereinafter referred as the 'Act'), as on 26.03.2025, 2735 cases have been registered and 290 cases are pending in the High Court. Further, as

on 28.02.2025, 18562 cases are pending in the District Courts.The detailed statement showing District-wise pendency is at ***Annexure-I***. The average duration of 18,562 cases pending in the District Courts of the State as on 28.02.2025 is 4.42 years.Further, 3 (three) exclusive Special Courts have been established at Balangir, Balasore and Cuttack in Odisha for the trial of offences under the Act. The details regarding conviction / acquittal rates in cases tried under the Act in Odisha during the last five years are as under:

Year	Conviction rate (%)	Acquittal rate (%)
2020	4.94	85.77
2021	5.20	85.82
2022	9.27	89.24
2023	4.43	90.83
2024	2.21	88.76
2025 (as on 28.02.2025)	6.27	78.42

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ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5743 FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2025 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF SC/ST CASES IN ODISHA'S DISTRICT AND HIGH COURTS'.

Sl. No.	Name of the Judgeship	Pendency as on 28.02.2025	Average duration of cases pending as on 28.02.2025 (in Years)
1	Angul	727	4.46
2	Balangir	148	3.91
3	Balarore	987	5.87
4	Bargarh	715	4.30
5	Bhadrak	1201	3.44
6	Boudh	213	3.97
7	Cuttak	1637	4.02
8	Deogarh	196	6.80
9	Dhenkanal	844	4.91
10	Gajapati	70	2.23
11	Ganjam	1018	3.21
12	jagatsinghpur	673	3.39
13	jajpur	1596	3.56
14	Jharsuguda	344	4.63
15	Kalahandi	498	4.26
16	Kandhamal	207	3.66
17	Kendrapara	1225	4.00
18	Keonjhar	525	4.22
19	Khurda	1493	6.70
20	Koraput	185	5.80
21	Malkangiri	65	3.20
22	Mayurbhanj	515	4.04
23	Nabarangpur	202	9.15
24	Nayagarh	257	3.58
25	Nuapada	268	5.21
26	Puri	1425	4.30
27	Rayagada	91	2.66
28	Sambalpur	420	4.21
29	Sonepur	342	5.16
30	Sundargarh	475	3.88
	Total	18562	4.42