

2025

LOK SABHA REPLIES

**BUDGET SESSION, 2025[4TH SESSION OF
18TH LOK SABHA]**

[31ST January, 2025 to 13TH February, 2025]

INDEX

Sl.No.	Question No.	Question Type	Date	Subject	Division	PageNo.
1.	71*	Starred	03.02.2025	Affordable and Accessible Justice to Citizens	A2J	1-6
2.	723	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Vacancies in Judiciary	NM	7-11
3.	733	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Fast Track Special Courts	J-II	12-16
4.	736	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Use of Alternate Language in High Courts	J-I	17-18
5.	781	Unstarred	03.02.2025	PIL in Courts	NM	19-24
6.	783	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Land Dispute Cases in the Courts	NM	24-25
7.	794	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Strength of Judges	Appointment	27-31
8.	805	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Justice for Litigants	NM	32-39
9.	821	Unstarred	03.02.2025	POCSO Courts	J-II	40-41
10.	834	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Election Manifesto	Leg.II Section (LD)	42
11.	835	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Expenditure on Litigation	Judl. Section (LA)	43-48
12.	838	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Vacancies of Judicial Officers in Andhra Pradesh	Appointment	49-50
13.	848	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Use of Artificial Intelligence for Reducing Pendency of Cases	e-Courts	51-52
14.	852	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Restriction on Political Largesse and Freebies	Leg.II Section (LD)	53-54
15.	854	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Facilities to Women Advocates	Impl. Section (LA)	55-56
16.	904	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Lok Adalats	LAP	57-62
17.	908	Unstarred	03.02.2025	Pending Cases in Courts	NM	63-66
18.	911	Unstarred	03.02.2025	e-Courts Project Phase III	e-Courts	67-72

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 71

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY- 07.02.2025

JSC(NKG)
A2J

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE TO CITIZENS

✓*71. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to ensure availability of affordable and accessible justice to the citizens along with the usage of Official Language and Regional Languages in all the courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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.*71 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING
'AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE TO CITIZENS.'**

(a) & (b): The Government has taken several steps to ensure availability of affordable and accessible justice to the citizens. 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 as covered under Section 12 of the Act, to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities. The activities/programs 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.

Further, under the aegis of the LSA Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are organised to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunities. For this purpose, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk Court level to the Supreme Court. There are three types of Lok Adalats namely State Lok Adalats, National Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. State Lok Adalats are organised by State Legal Services Authorities as per local conditions and needs and Permanent Lok Adalats are conducted as per the number of sittings decided per week. 10.57 crore cases (pending in courts and disputes at the pre-litigation stage) have been settled through National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalat and Permanent Lok Adalat in the year 2024.

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 delivery of legal services through the scheme of Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) and Legal Literacy and Legal awareness programme. Till 31st January 2025, Tele- Law service has been made available across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in 785 districts across 36 States and UTs and has rendered pre - litigation advice to 1,06,85,242 beneficiaries. The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal services) enables seamless connect through the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available on Android/iOS) between the interested Pro Bono Advocates and registered beneficiaries who are entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the

Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. As on 31st January, 2025, there are 8783 Pro Bono advocates registered under the Nyaya Bandhu program. Through the Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness programme, approximately 1 crore beneficiaries at the State and district and local levels have been made aware and sensitized on various rights, duties and entitlements.

The Government of India has approved a new Central Sector Scheme namely Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme on 12.03.2024. LADCS Scheme shall provide legal aid to the beneficiaries w.r.t. criminal cases only and the beneficiaries shall be as per eligibility criteria as stated in Sections 12 of the Legal Services Authorities 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 30 September-2024, LADC offices are functional in 653 districts across the country and has engaged 4674 staff including 3167 Defense Counsels. During the year 2024-25 (upto September, 2024), LADCS offices dealt more than 2.54 lakh criminal cases.

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

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

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

In order to make the judicial proceedings and judgments more comprehensive for the grasp of common citizen, specific efforts have been made for translation of proceedings and judgments from English to other regional languages. The Supreme Court is collaborating with the High Courts in translation of e-SCR Judgements in 18 vernacular languages. The Chief Justice of India has constituted the Artificial Intelligence Assisted Legal Translation Advisory Committee, headed by a Judge of the Supreme Court of India to monitor the translation of Supreme Court Reportable Judgements (e-SCR) into vernacular languages by using Artificial Intelligence Tools. A similar Committee has been constituted in all the High Courts, headed by the Judges of the respective High Courts.

Further in order to promote regional languages in judicial procedure, Supreme Court has developed Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software (SUVAS) which is a machine assisted translation tool trained by Artificial Intelligence. SUVAS has been developed with technical support from Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This tool is specially designed for judicial domain and currently has the capacity of translating English Judicial Documents, orders or Judgments into ten vernacular languages which are: Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu and vice-versa.

As on date, 36,335 Supreme Court Judgments have been translated in Hindi language and 45,859 Judgments of Supreme Court have been translated in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal <https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/index.php> (Annexure-A).

As regards the High Court Judgments, 12,629 Judgments of 09 High Courts have been translated in Hindi language and 18315 Judgments have been translated in other vernacular languages as on 27.09.2024 and uploaded on the website of the respective High Courts. The High Court wise details of Supreme Court and High Court Judgments translated and uploaded after vetting is placed as (Annexure-B).

(c) : In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Annexure-A

Details of Supreme Court Judgments translated in Hindi language and in other vernacular languages and uploaded on e-SCR portal as on 03.02.2025.

Supreme Court Vernacular Judgements Available on e-SCR Portal		
Sl. No.	Local Language	No. of Judgements
1.	Assamese	340
2.	Bengali	2789
3.	Garo	7
4.	Gujarati	3318
5.	Hindi	36335
6.	Kannada	1942
7.	Kashmiri	1
8.	Khasi	4
9.	Konkani	16
10.	Malayalam	2993
11.	Marathi	2594
12.	Nepali	153
13.	Odia	353
14.	Punjabi	24970
15.	Santali	40
16.	Tamil	2770
17.	Telugu	1655
18.	Urdu	1914

Source :- e-SCR portal (<https://judgments.ecourts.gov.in/pdfsearch/index.php>)

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

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

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 723

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07TH FEBRUARY, 2025

VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY

✓ 723. **SHRI GOVIND MAKTHAPPA KARJOL:**
SMT. MALA ROY:
SHRI ARVIND DHARMAPURI:

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

- (a) the Judge-population ratio in the country as on 31.12.2024;**
- (b) the details of current status of judicial vacancies in various courts across the country during the last three years till date and the impact thereof on the functioning of the judiciary system;**
- (c) the total number of vacancies for judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts, State-wise including Karnataka as on 31.12.2024;**
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the impact of the vacancies on a large number of pending cases in the country, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the details of steps taken by the Government to fill these vacancies in various courts and reduce pendency rates in the State of Karnataka; and**
- (f) whether the Ministry maintains a record of the number of proposals for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court pending before the collegium 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): Based on the population as per Census 2011 which was 1210.19 million and as per available information regarding sanctioned strength of Judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts as on

31.12.2024, the judge - population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 21 Judges per million population.

(b) & (c): The details of judicial vacancies in the Supreme Court and High Courts, (including **State of Karnataka**) during last three years till 04.02.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	03.01.2022	02.01.2023	01.01.2024	04.02.2025
1.	Supreme Court	01	06	01	02
2.	High Courts	410	339	330	367

Further, a statement showing the judicial vacancies in District and Subordinate Courts, State-wise (including **State of Karnataka**) during last three years till 04.02.2025 is at *Annexure-I*.

(d) & (e): 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.

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

by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

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

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

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

Since May 2014 till 04.02.2025, 1013 Judges have been appointed to various High Courts. Since 01.01.2018 till date, 49 Judges have been appointed in the

Karnataka High Court and at present there are 13 vacancies in the Karnataka High Court.

(f): No Sir.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 723 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY'.

Vacancy of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts during last three years.

Sl.	State/UTs	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	04.02.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	73	83	59	75
2	Telangana	150	115	115	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	8	10	11	11
4	Assam	60	46	24	24
5	Bihar	667	1550	483	483
6	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	90	139	198	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	1	1	1
9	Delhi	203	89	94	94
10	Goa	10	10	10	10
11	Gujarat	431	545	535	535
12	Haryana	308	208	230	230
13	Himachal Pradesh	16	21	19	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	91	94	43	43
15	Ladakh	8	7	6	6
16	Jharkhand	186	181	199	199
17	Karnataka	233	225	219	221
18	Kerala	122	91	79	79
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	372	298	336	336
21	Maharashtra	250	250	250	250
22	Manipur	17	10	13	13
23	Meghalaya	48	42	42	42
24	Mizoram	33	33	29	29
25	Nagaland	10	10	10	10
26	Odisha	234	205	200	200
27	Puducherry	17	19	10	10
28	Punjab	208	212	81	81
29	Rajasthan	331	296	328	342
30	Sikkim	9	12	12	12
31	Tamil Nadu	272	331	346	346
32	Tripura	20	20	24	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	1173	1247	996	996
34	Uttarakhand	30	27	28	28
35	West Bengal	83	83	230	230
36	A& N Island				
Total		5764	5428	5260	5292

Source: MIS portal of the Department of Justice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 733
ANSWERED ON – 07/02/2025

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

JS(J-II)
J-II
✓ 733. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAJU BISTA:
SMT. DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:
SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:
SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to implement the Fast Track Special Courts scheme (FTSCs) scheme along with the key achievements and outcomes thereof;
- (b) the total number of FTSCs that have been established since the inception of the scheme across the country and the disposal rates of rape and POCSO cases therein compared to regular courts, State/UT-wise including Tripura, West Bengal, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Odisha particularly Keonjhar and other underserved districts;
- (c) the details of funding mechanism that supported the establishment and operation of these courts in the country including the said States and the manner in which the Government ensures that the Nirbhaya Fund and other funds have been utilised effectively by the States;
- (d) the amount allocated and spent, State-wise;
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to establish and operationalise (FTSCs) across the country to expedite the trial of serious cases;
- (f) the manner in which the Government plans to monitor and evaluate the performance of FTSCs in terms of reducing backlog cases and improving access to justice; and
- (g) the details of initiatives being implemented to promote public awareness about the existence and functions of FTSCs particularly among vulnerable populations?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases came to be

introduced in October, 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts, after securing the approval of the Union Cabinet. The **total financial outlay of the scheme is Rs. 1952.23 cr. with Rs. 1207.24 cr. as Central Share** to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund on the CSS pattern.

As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.12.2024, **747 FTSCs including 406 exclusive POCSO Courts** are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed around 3,00,000 cases as of 31.12.2024. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) along with the cumulative disposal, are at **Annexure-I**.

At the inception of the Scheme, the allocation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) was determined by a criterion that one FTSC would be established for every 65 to 165 pending cases. Based on this yardstick, 31 States/Union Territories (UTs) were initially eligible to participate in the Scheme. Arunachal Pradesh opted out citing a very low number of pending cases of rape and POCSO Act, while Puducherry joined the Scheme at a later stage upon special request and operationalized an exclusive POCSO Court in May, 2023. Additionally, the UT of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC. Consequently, the Scheme currently includes a total of 32 participating States/UTs. The UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu was not made part of the scheme as the total number of pending cases was less than the number of cases (65 and above) required, to set up the FTSC. In the State of Odisha, Keonjhar District has two functional FTSCs including one exclusive POCSO Court, dealing with rape and POCSO Act cases. In the State of Tripura, 3 FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts are functional at Agartala, West Tripura District and Unakoti District. In the State of West Bengal, 6 exclusive POCSO courts are functional at Howrah, North-24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Kolkata, Paschim Bardhaman and Hooghly District.

As per the inputs received from the High Courts, the disposal rate of Rape and POCSO Act cases in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) is significantly higher than in regular courts. While the average disposal rate of Rape and POCSO Act cases in regular courts is estimated at 3.2 cases per court per month, FTSCs achieve an average of 9.5 cases per month.

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

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

(e) to (g): The establishment of Fast Track Special Courts demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government towards women security, combating sexual and gender-based violence, reducing the backlog of pending cases related to Rape & POCSO Act, and providing enhanced access to justice for survivors of sexual crimes. With professional and experienced judges and support staff specialized in handling sensitive sexual offense cases, these courts ensure consistent and expert-guided legal proceedings offering victims of sexual offences swift resolution in mitigating the trauma and distress, and enabling them to move forward.

For efficient implementation of the Scheme, the Department of Justice conducts regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with the nodal officers of the State/UT Governments and their respective High Courts. To ensure effective monitoring, a dashboard has been created by the Department to gather detailed information and track the performance of the FTSCs, through the High Courts. All the data and information related to Fast Track Special Courts is periodically updated on the Departments website and the same is also uploaded on the social media platforms from time to time to promote public awareness about the existence and functions of FTSCs.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 733 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'

State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts including exclusive POCSO Courts (As on 31.12.2024)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme		
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO	Exclusive POCSO	FTSCs	Exclusive POCSO	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	6221	6221
2	Assam	17	17	0	7664	7664
3	Bihar	46	46	0	14495	14495
4	Chandigarh	1	0	317	0	317
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	1131	4611	5742
6	Delhi	16	11	676	1660	2336
7	Goa	1	0	61	34	95
8	Gujarat	35	24	2852	11671	14523
9	Haryana	16	12	1815	5438	7253
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	531	749	1280
11	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	112	151	263
12	Jharkhand	22	16	2550	5585	8135
13	Karnataka	30	17	4721	7729	12450
14	Kerala	55	14	15987	7215	23202
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	4432	25333	29765
16	Maharashtra	6	2	8635	11988	20623
17	Manipur	2	0	172	0	172
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	647	647
19	Mizoram	3	1	176	66	242
20	Nagaland	1	0	65	3	68
21	Odisha	44	23	6237	11470	17707
22	Puducherry*	1	1	0	122	122
23	Punjab	12	3	2424	2268	4692
24	Rajasthan	45	30	5251	12040	17291
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	8898	8898
26	Telangana	36	0	7567	2731	10298
27	Tripura	3	1	230	208	438
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	1792	0	1792
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	40257	42404	82661
30	West Bengal	6	6	0	232	232
31	A&N Islands**	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	747	406	107991	191633	299624

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 733 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'

State/UT-wise Total Central Share of funds released under the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme (As on 03.02.2025)

(₹ in Crore)

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 736
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

Use of Alternate Language in High Courts

✓36. SHRI MATHESWARAN V S:

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

- (a) the rationale behind the decision which has stipulated that consent of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India be obtained on any proposal relating to use of alternate language other than English in the High Courts; and
- (b) whether the Chief Justice of India is declining the request for use of Tamil language in the Madras High 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 far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these courts shall be in English language. However, under sub-article (2) of Article 348 of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in the proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State, may with previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to

English language, for the purpose of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that State and where any judgement, decree or order passed or made in any such language (other than the English language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in English language issued under the authority of the High Court.

The question of common language of High Courts in India was considered in the conference of the Chief Justices of the High Courts held in March 1965 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice of India. The recommendations of Chief Justices conference along with the recommendations of Official Language Commission (1955) were considered by the Cabinet Committee, which adopted the convention whereby the Chief Justice of India would be consulted before the President gave his consent to any such proposal in its meeting dated 21.05.1965. After the Cabinet Committee's decision dated 21.05.1965 as mentioned above, the use of Hindi was authorized in the High Courts of Uttar Pradesh (1969), Madhya Pradesh (1971) and Bihar (1972) in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

(b) The Government of India had received proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu to permit use of Tamil language in the proceedings of the Madras High Court. The advice of the Chief Justice of India was sought as per the convention and the Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 16.10.2012 intimated that the Full Court in its meeting dated 11.10.2012 after due deliberations, decided not to accept the proposal. Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decisions in this regard and convey the consent of the Supreme Court of India in July, 2014. The Chief Justice of India vide his D.O. letter dated 18.01.2016 conveyed that the Full Court, after extensive deliberations, unanimously resolved that the proposals could not be accepted.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †781
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

PIL IN COURTS

JSC/NMTR-I)
NM
†781. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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

- (a) the total number of cases pending for more than ten years in the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court and the details of such pending cases, category-wise;**
- (b) the number and the details of PIL cases in which decisions were given by the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court and the respective Governments committed contempt of court in respect of such decisions during the last five years; and**
- (c) whether the Government intends to take any concrete steps to ensure timely compliance of the decisions given by the courts in PIL and to prevent contempt thereof, if so, the time line in this regard, 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): As per the information provided by the High Court of Rajasthan, as on 31.12.2024, the number of cases pending for more than ten years is 1,19,906. The details of such pending cases (category wise) are at *Annexure*. As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India, the total number of cases pending for more than ten years in the Supreme Court of India is 7178 as on 04.02.2025, out of which 5990 are Civil Cases and 1188 are Criminal Cases.

As per the information received from Supreme Court of India and Rajasthan High Court, the details in respect of PIL cases in which decisions were given by the

above mentioned courts and the respective Governments, which committed contempt of court during the last five years are not maintained.

Annexure

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 781 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'PIL IN COURTS'.

CATEGORY-WISE PENDENCY CASES FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS AS ON 31.12.2024 / 01.01.2025

S.No.	KINDS OF CASES	TOTAL
	MAIN CASES -CIVIL SIDE	
1	CIVIL FIRST APPEAL	12343
2	CIVIL SECOND APPEAL	3778
3	EXE. FIRST APPEAL	58
4	EXE. SECOND APPEAL	8
5	CIVIL MISC. APPEAL	19027
6	CIVIL REVISION	22
7	CIVIL REVIEW	199
8	CUSTOM APPEAL	0
9	INCOME TAX REFERENCE	3
10	OTHER TAX REFERENCE	3
11	TAX CASES	0
12	EXCISE ACT REF.	0
13	INCOME TAX APPEAL	134
14	WEALTH TAX APPEAL	0
15	SALES TAX REVISIONS	567
16	TESTAMENTARY CASES	0
17	COMPANY PETITION	10
18	COMPANY APPEAL	6
19	COMPANY APPLICATIONS	26
20	COMPANY EXE. PETITION	0
21	COMPANY SUIT	2
22	CIVIL TRANSFER APPLICATION	0
23	COMPANY LIQUIDATION	39
24	ELECTION PETITION	0
25	SPECIAL APPEAL (CIVIL)	6
26	SPECIAL APPEAL (WRIT)	319
27	CIVIL CONTEMPT PETITION	174
28	CIVIL WRIT	39269
29	OTHER ORIGINAL SUITS	0
30	CENTRAL EXCISE APPEAL	25
31	RECRIMINATION PETITION	0
32	CROSS OBJECTION	939
33	CIVIL REFERENCE	0
34	CIVIL MISC. APPLICATIONS (WAKF TRIBUNAL)	7
	TOTAL (A)	76964
	MAIN CASES - CRIMINAL SIDE	
1	MURDER REFERENCE	0
2	CRIMINAL APPEAL	27954
3	CRIMINAL REVISION	7071
4	CRL. MISC. PET. U/S 482 CR. P.C.	841

5	CRL. MISC. BAIL U/S 438 & 439 CR. P. C.	0
6	CRIMINAL CONTEMPT PETITION	12
7	CRIMINAL REFERENCE	0
8	HABEAS CORPUS	0
9	CRIMINAL LEAVE TO APPEAL	46
10	CRIMINAL WRITS	13
11	CRIMINAL ORIGINAL	0
12	CRIMINAL REVIEW	0
	TOTAL (B)	35937
	TOTAL (A+B)	112901

Contd/-

CATEGORY-WISE PENDENCY CASES FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS AS ON 31.12.2024 / 01.01.2025

KINDS OF CASES	TOTAL
MISC. CASES - CRIMINAL SIDE	
CRIMINAL MISC. APPLN. -	
BAIL APPL. IN CRIMINAL APPEAL	750
BAIL APPL. & STAY IN CRIMINAL REVISION	35
BAIL APPL. & STAY IN CRIMINAL MISC. PETITION	490
BAIL APPL. & STAY IN CRIMINAL CRIMINAL TRANS PET. +CRLW	6
BAIL APPL. & STAY IN CRIMINAL CRIMINAL CONT. PETITION	0
BAIL APPL. & STAY IN CRIMINAL LEAVE TO APPEAL	1
CRIMINAL MISC. APPLICATION	20
TOTAL (C)	1302
CRIMINAL TRANSFER PET.	0
STAY IN HABEAS CORPUS	0
TOTAL (D)	0
TOTAL (C+D)	1302
TOTAL A+B+C+D	114203
MISC. CASES - CIVIL SIDE	
CIVIL INTERLOCUTORY CASES	
STAY IN INCOME TAX APPEAL	0
STAY IN SALES TAX REV.	5
STAY IN CIVIL FIRST APPEAL	286
STAY IN CIVIL SECOND APPEAL	13
STAY IN CIVIL MISC. APPEAL	1770
STAY IN CIVIL REVISION	13
STAY IN SPL. APPEAL (CIVIL)	0
STAY IN CIVIL TRANS FER APPLICATION	0
STAY IN SPL. APPEAL (WRIT)	85
STAY IN WRIT PET.	1371
STAY IN CENTRAL EXCISE APPEAL	0
STAY IN CIVIL REVIEW	0
STAY IN CIVIL MISC. APPLICATION	0
STAY IN W.T. APPEAL/CUSTA	0
STAY IN O. T. REFERENCE	1
STAY IN EXE. FIRST APPEAL	23
STAY IN EXE. SECOND APPEAL	5
STAY IN CIVIL CONTEMPT	0
STAY IN COMPANY CASES	0
TOTAL (E)	3572
CIVIL MISC. APPLICATION	1513
CIVIL MISC. CASE	611
EXE. MISC. APPLICATION	0
LEAVE TO APPEAL TO S.C.	7
CIVIL TRANSFER APPLICATION	0
TOTAL (F)	2131
TOTAL (E+F)	5703

TOTAL- MISC. (C+D+E+F)	7005
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E+F)	119906
Number of DB Contempt Petition registered from Jan-2020 to Dec-2024 which have been filed in relation to decisions given in PIL case from Jan-2020 to Dec-2024 by Rajasthan High Court.	297

Note: - No data is maintained in Rajasthan High Court regarding the cases (PIL decisions), in which Contempt has been committed by respective Government.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 783
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

LAND DISPUTE CASES IN THE COURTS

✓ 783. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending across the country;
- (b) the number of land dispute-related cases pending across courts in the country;
- (c) the details of the total land area which is currently under dispute or litigation in the country; and
- (d) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to fast-track land-disputes related cases, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of cases pending in various courts as on 30.01.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	82,922
2.	High Courts	62,28,980
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,56,17,477

(b) to (d): The information is not centrally maintained. The disposal of pending cases in time bound manner is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency. The Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 794**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07.02.2025

Strength of Judges

*JSC APPHS
APPHS*
✓794. Shri Varun Chaudhry:

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

- (a) the sanctioned and working strength of Judges in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and District Courts in Haryana;
- (b) the details of present requirement of Court complex, court halls and residential units in various courts across the country;
- (c) the number of Courts which are to be provided with dedicated video conferencing facilities in the District Courts across the country;
- (d) the allocation of central assistance from the Union Government for the development of Judicial infrastructure in Haryana in the last ten years, year-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to secure the Court complexes from firing and other incidents?

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 on 04.02.2025 against the sanctioned strength of 85, 51 Judges are working in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. As per the Management Information System (MIS) portal of the Department of Justice, 551 Judicial

Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts of Haryana are working against the sanctioned strength of 781.

(b): The details of the requirement of Court Halls, Residential Units in the States/UTs as on 31.01.2025 are at Annexure-A.

(c): As part of the National e-Governance Plan, the e-Courts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the "National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary". During Phase I of the project, video conferencing facility has been operationalized between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In e-Courts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Under e-Courts Phase III, an amount of Rs. 228.48 Crore has been earmarked for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing in 10200 establishments including 500 Jails, 700 District Government Hospitals and 9000 Courts.

(d): The details of the allocation of central assistance from the Union Government for the development of Judicial infrastructure in Haryana in the last ten years, year-wise are at **Annexure-B**.

(e): Maintenance of order in the Court's premises as well as safety and security of Judges is in the domain of State Governments /UT Administrations.

ANNEXURE-A**Requirement of Court Halls, Residential Units in States/UTs as on 31.01.2025:**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Court Halls	Required Court Halls	Under Construction Court Halls*	Total Residential Units	Required Residential Units	Under Construction Residential Units*
1	Andaman and Nicobar**	0	15	-15**	0	11	-11**	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	639	658	-19^	81	648	-9^	14
3	Arunachal Pradesh	44	34	10	5	32	12	2
4	Assam	485	422	63	72	381	104	19
5	Bihar	2019	1636	383	207	1217	802	296
6	Chandigarh	30	31	-1^	1	30	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	663	495	168	73	473	190	788
8	D & N Haveli	3	3	0	0	3	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	4	5	-1^	3	5	-1^	0
10	Delhi	897	697	200	0	344	553	70
11	Goa	50	50	0	33	20	30	1
12	Gujarat	1720	1509	211	106	1360	360	331
13	Haryana	781	583	198	75	574	207	65
14	Himachal Pradesh	179	178	1	11	155	24	7
15	Jammu and Kashmir	322	204	118	46	140	182	8
16	Jharkhand	705	650	55	12	583	122	0
17	Karnataka	1375	1234	141	187	1207	168	47
18	Kerala	612	575	37	111	555	57	20
19	Ladakh	17	11	6	0	4	13	0

20	Lakshadweep	4	3	1	0	3	1	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1611	417	397	1779	249	153
22	Maharashtra	2190	2431	-241^	580	2197	-7^	144
23	Manipur	62	42	20	8	16	46	6
24	Meghalaya	99	71	28	16	135	-36^	86
25	Mizoram	74	47	27	32	38	36	8
26	Nagaland	34	30	4	8	39	-5^	0
27	Odisha	1041	898	143	156	748	293	97
28	Puducherry	36	34	2	0	27	9	0
29	Punjab	804	613	191	21	635	169	33
30	Rajasthan	1654	1385	269	352	1187	467	129
31	Sikkim	35	20	15	6	15	20	1
32	Tamil Nadu	1369	1247	122	40	1377	-8^	6
33	Telangana	560	552	8	21	472	88	5
34	Tripura	133	83	50	27	80	53	33
35	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2848	852	329	2555	1145	238
36	Uttarakhand	298	253	45	66	212	86	3
37	West Bengal	1105	887	218	117	473	632	26
TOTAL		25771	22045	3726	3199	19730	6041	2636

**As per Nyaya Vikas Portal*

***Separate Sanctioned Strength not made available by Calcutta High Court*

^Total availability of Court Halls/Residential Units is already more than Sanctioned Strength.

ANNEXURE-B

Funds released statement for the last ten years for Haryana

S.No	Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1.	2015-2016	50.00
2.	2017-2018	15.00
3.	2018-2019	11.91
4.	2019-2020	14.06
5.	2020-2021	22.00
6.	2023-2024	20.10
	Total	133.07

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 805
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

JUSTICE FOR LITIGANTS

✓ **805. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to address the backlog of over 48 million pending cases including those related to OBC creamy layer issue, particularly in subordinate courts and ensure timely justice for citizens and selected candidates of UPSC;**
- (b) the manner in which the Government plans to uphold the constitutional guarantee of a fair and timely trial under Article 21 for millions of litigants in view of pendency of more than 182,000 cases for 30 years;**
- (c) whether there is a vacancy of 42 per cent in High Courts and shortage of staff in subordinate courts;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons for inability to fill these vacancies along with timeline for filling up the same;**
- (e) the details of reforms that are being introduced to tackle procedural delays, including lengthy adjournments and inefficiencies in case management, to expedite the judicial process; and**
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to reform its litigation policies to reduce the backlog and ensure faster resolutions?**

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): Disposal of cases in courts is within the exclusive 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:

(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. 11841.72 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 22,037 as on 20.01.2025, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,690 as on 20.01.2025, under this scheme.

(iii) Further 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 31.12.2025, 1540 eSewaKendras in District Courts and 29 eSewaKendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 27 virtual courts have been set

up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.12.2024, these courts have handled more than 6.36 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 691.95crores in fines. The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crores. 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) A Statement showing sanctioned strength, working strength, vacancies of Judges in the High Courts across the country as on 04.02.2025 is at *Annexure-I*. Recruitment of administrative staff, support staff, technical staff in District and Subordinate Courts does not fall in the purview of the Central Government. This information, therefore, is not centrally maintained.

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

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

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

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

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

The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 27.01.2025, 1013 new Judges were appointed and 776 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. 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
30.01.2025	25,771	20,478

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

(vi) The judicial procedure like Adjournment, Case Management come

under the purview of Judiciary. However, Government of India has taken various initiatives by introducing new laws and scheme which aims to facilitate reduction in the backlog and ensure faster resolution.

(vii) 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 31.12.2024, 863 Fast Track Courts are functional for handling cases of heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. 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 31.12.2024, 747 FTSCs including 406 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,99,000 cases.

(viii) 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.

(ix) 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.

(x) 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 (upto 31.12.2024)	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

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

mobile App.

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

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	41,75,351	39.32	41,20,027	39.27
Male	64,43,290	60.68	63,72,548	60.73
Caste Category Wise				
General	24,90,291	23.45	24,52,633	23.37
OBC	33,54,939	31.59	33,11,963	31.56
SC	33,45,204	31.50	33,11,945	31.56
ST	14,28,207	13.45	14,16,034	13.50
Total	1,06,18,641		1,04,92,575	

*Data as on 31-12-2024.

(xii) 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 level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(xiii) In order to expedite the trial of Court cases a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 805 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'JUSTICE FOR LITIGANTS'.

Sanctioned strength, working strength, vacancies of Judges in the High Courts as on 04.02.2025

Sl No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
		Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total	Pmt.	Addl	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	79	0	79	40	41	81
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	21	9	30	7	0	7
3	Bombay	71	23	94	52	16	68	19	7	26
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	33	10	43	21	8	29
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	9	7	16	8	-2	6
6	Delhi	45	15	60	38	0	38	7	15	22
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	21	3	24	1	5	6
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	12	3	15	7	3	10
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	16	0	16	4	5	9
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	46	3	49	1	-12	13
13	Kerala	35	12	47	30	15	45	5	-3	2
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	33	0	33	7	13	20
15	Madras	56	19	75	54	11	65	2	8	10
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	1	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	18	0	18	6	9	15
19	Patna	40	13	53	34	0	34	6	13	19
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	48	3	51	16	18	34
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	0	33	5	12	17
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	23	7	30	9	3	12
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
Total		846	276	1122	666	89	755	180	187	367

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 821
ANSWERED ON -07/02/2025

POCSO COURTS

JS (J-II)
J-II
✓ 821. SHRI S. JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

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

- (a) the number of POCSO courts currently operational in the country, specifically in Tamil Nadu, and the total number of cases disposed of by these courts since its inception till date;
- (b) the percentage of cases disposed of within the prescribed time limits set by law and the measures taken by the Government to ensure timely disposal of cases in these courts;
- (c) the number of fast-track courts dedicated to specifically handle POCSO cases in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to increase this number in response to the current case backlog, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the number of staff and Judicial Officers currently employed in these courts and the details regarding specific challenges these courts are facing in terms of resources, staff, or procedural delays?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases came to be introduced in October, 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, targeting the establishment of 790 courts. As per the inputs received from the High Courts, as on 31.12.2024, 747 FTSCs including 406 exclusive POCSO Courts (e-POCSO) are functional in 30 States/UTs. These courts have disposed of around 3,00,000 cases of Rape and POCSO Act as of 31.12.2024. Concerted efforts are being made, in coordination with the State/UT Governments and respective High Courts, to expedite the operationalisation of the remaining sanctioned FTSCs at the earliest.

Against the initial mandate of setting up 389 e-POCSO courts, 406 e-POCSO Courts have been made functional across the country. These courts have disposed of more than 1,91,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme. In Tamil Nadu, 14 e-POCSO Courts are functional as on 31.12.2024 which have disposed of more than 8890 cases since the inception of the Scheme.

Disposal of pending cases in courts falls under the purview of the judiciary, with individual courts functioning under the administrative control of the respective High Courts. However, to facilitate efficient implementation of the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme and ensure adherence to prescribed timelines for case disposal, the Central Government has undertaken multiple measures including conducting regular review meetings through Video Conferencing with State Governments and High Court officials to monitor the progress and address implementation challenges. Additionally, communications have been issued at the level of the Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States/UTs and Hon'ble Chief Justices of High Courts, emphasizing the need for strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the POCSO Act and the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. For better monitoring and data-driven decision-making, a dedicated dashboard has been developed to track the performance of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) and ensure systematic data collection. Furthermore, the performance of FTSCs remains a key agenda item in Inter-State Zonal Council meetings to enhance inter-governmental coordination and expedite case disposal.

As per the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Guidelines, each FTSC is mandated to have one Judicial Officer and seven support staff members, all of whom are dedicated exclusively to the disposal of Rape and POCSO Act cases. The appointment of Judicial Officers and support staff, along with the necessary arrangements for the functioning of these courts, is not in the purview of the Central Government.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 834**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07th FEBRUARY 2025

Election Manifesto

✓ 834. Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take steps to make provisions in the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 for political parties which come to power after winning the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to make their details public regarding the fulfillment of promises made in their election manifesto in the third year and for de-recognition of parties which fail to fulfil 75% of their election manifesto after coming to power; 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): No.

(b): Does not arise. In order to improve the existing electoral practices in the country, the Government after consultation with the Election Commission of India takes various steps for the amendments in the Election Laws, rules and regulations as and when circumstances so warrant.

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

Jud section CLA)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARTED QUESTION NO. 835
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7-2-2025

Expenditure on Litigation

✓ 835. Shri Raja Ram Singh:

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

- (a) the details of the total expenditure incurred on litigation carried out by the Union Government during the last ten years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of the breakup for the same, ministries, department and year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce litigation and the costs associated with; and
- (d) whether the remedial results envisaged therein have been achieved, 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 requisite data is not maintained by the Government in the form and manner sought. However, the expenditure incurred on litigation during the last ten years, year-wise is as follows:

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure (in ₹)
1	2014-15	26,64,66,066
2	2015-16	37,43,25,971
3	2016-17	48,12,92,060
4	2017-18	65,83,50,532
5	2018-19	51,85,65,364
6	2019-20	61,08,76,154
7	2020-21	58,43,62,137
8	2021-22	48,56,53,683
9	2022-23	57,45,33,707
10	2023-24	66,57,83,403

(c) & (d): The reduction of pendency in court cases is within the domain of the judiciary as the adjudication of cases is done by the Courts. The Government has no role in the adjudication and timely disposal of cases in courts. However, the Central Government is fully committed to aid the speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. In order to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, the Government set-up National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Some of the initiatives taken by Department of Justice to aid the cause of justice delivery are as under:-

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 11167.36 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 23,020 as on 30.06.2024, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,836 as on 30.06.2024, under this scheme.

Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 30.04.2024, 1050 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. As on 31.05.2024, 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs and these courts have handled more than 5.08 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 561.09 crores in fines.

The Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The proposed timeframe for the Project is four years starting from 2023 onwards. It envisages digitization of the court records, both legacy records and pending cases; state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval; eSewa Kendras at all court complexes across India; paperless courts; video conferencing facilities to be expanded to also cover district hospitals; Live Streaming of court proceedings and expansion of the scope of Virtual Courts. The project will help provide a smoother user experience by building a "smart" ecosystem. Registries will have less data entry and minimal file scrutiny facilitating better decision-making and policy planning. The eCourts Phase-III will thus prove to be a

game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country.

Under eCourts Phase III, out of Rs. 825 crores allotted in FY 23-24, highest ever funds amounting to 805.57 Crore were released in one single financial year under the Project. The funds were received in the month of October'23 and expenditure of Rs 768.25 Cr (93.11%) was made in the space of five months, which is the highest under eCourts Project till date. During FY 24-25 an allocation of Rs 1500 Cr. in the BE has been received, out of which Rs 464.98 Cr has already been released to the various High Courts.

Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 09.07.2024, 62 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 976 new Judges were appointed and 745 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
10.07.2024	25,523	20,414

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

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.

Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As of 31.05.2024, 866 Fast Track Courts are functional for trying cases of heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. 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 of 31.05.2024, a total of 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,53,000 cases.

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

Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th 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.

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 case disposed off in National Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

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

The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided 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 Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Till 30th June, 2024	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	34,77,951	38.43	34,38,027	38.38
Male	55,73,180	61.57	55,19,687	61.62
Caste Category Wise				
General	21,09,811	23.31	20,81,215	23.23
OBC	28,25,925	31.22	27,95,376	31.21
SC	29,01,087	32.05	28,74,044	32.08
ST	12,14,308	13.42	12,07,079	13.48
Total	90,51,131		89,57,714	

Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering 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 also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 89 Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Some of the initiatives taken under the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism are as under-

During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and continues to take further policy and legislative intervention to strengthen these mechanisms and make them more efficacious and expeditious. ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation 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 major initiatives, steps and measures taken by the Central Government over the years in this regard include;

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2020. These amendments aim 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, updating the law to reflect best global practices and resolve ambiguities thereby establishing an arbitration ecosystem where arbitration, domestic and international conducted by way of institutional arbitration can grow and flourish.

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.

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.

The Mediation Act, 2023, lays down the statutory framework for mediation to be adopted by parties to a dispute, especially institutional mediation, wherein various stakeholders have also been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country.

Some other initiatives taken under by Government to reduce litigation and the costs associated with:

* The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas (DTVSV) Scheme, 2024 and 2020 were introduced by the Finance Act, 2024 and 2020 respectively, to reduce the litigation.

* The CBDT has notified the e-appeals scheme, 2023 and 100 new posts of Addl./JCIT (Appeals) have been created.

* The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 and 2020 were introduced by the Finance Act, 2024 and 2020 respectively, to reduce the litigation.

* The CBDT has notified the e-appeals scheme, 2023 and 100 new posts of Addl./JCIT (Appeals) have been created.

* The CBDT has enhanced the monetary limits of filing appeals by the Department before the ITAT, HC and SC to Rs. 60 lacs, 2 Cr. And 5 Cr. in 2024. The revision of monetary limits of filing appeals has been undertaken from time to time.

* The CBDT has notified the e-Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2022 (e-DRS) on 30th August, 2024 with the aim to minimize litigation and provide relief to small taxpayers.

* The Central Action Plan 2024-25 has raised the appeal disposal targets for both the CIT(Appeals) and Addl./JCIT(Appeals). The targets have been fixed at 600, 450 and 800 appeals disposal for CIT(A/AU), CIT(IT& TP) and Addl./JCIT(A) respectively.

* The CIT(Appeals) have been empowered under section 251 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to set aside appeals filed against ex-parte assessment orders for fresh examination by the assessing officer w.e.f 1.10.2024.

* The total of 44 PCsIT and 39 CIT(DR) have been assigned the additional charge of CIT(Appeals) as a measure to augment manpower at first appellate level.

(d). The following results, till date, are achieved after steps taken to reduce litigation:-

* 40,166 eligible assesses have opted for DTVSV, 2024, from 1.10.2024 to 31.01.2025.

* The disposal of appeals at first appellate level in the first nine months of the current year has already reached the appeals disposed in the entire previous year.

* By raising monetary limits for filing appeals by the Department, a total of 43,895 appeals have been withdrawn from the ITAT, HC and SC since 2015.

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 838**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07.02.2025

Vacancies of Judicial Officers in Andhra Pradesh

JSC APPHS)
APPHS
✓ **838. Dr. C M Ramesh:**

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

- (a) the steps being taken by the High Court and the Supreme Court to fill in six permanent and two additional judge posts lying vacant in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to persuade High Court of Andhra Pradesh to fill in 74 vacancies of Judicial Officers in district and subordinate courts since there are more than 8.8 lakh cases lying pending in the State; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering to give one time grant to the States since there are nearly 5,250 vacancies of judicial officers in various States?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): In the Andhra Pradesh High Court, against the sanctioned strength of 37 Judges, there are 33 Judges (including 05 Judges working in other High Courts). 02 Judges (including the Chief Justice) from other High Courts are working in the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

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

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

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 848

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7th FEBRUARY, 2025

Use of Artificial Intelligence for Reducing Pendency of Cases

JS (GM)
e-courts
✓ 848. MS. MAHUA MOITRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering using and piloting Artificial Intelligence(AI) for improvement in reducing the backlog of pending cases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): 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.

As far as, the technological interventions are concerned, under eCourts Project Phase III, an attempt is being made to integrate modern technologies for

smoother user experience and to build a "smart" system in which the 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 intelligent scheduling, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, Natural Language Processing (NLP), automated filing, enhancing the case information system, communicating with the litigants through chatbots and translation.

The Government has allocated an amount of Rs. 7210 Crore for the implementation eCourts Phase III, which has 24 project components. Of these 24, one component is Future Technological Advancement (AI, Blockchain, etc.). As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of eCourts Phase III, Rs. 53.57 Crore has been allocated for this component, for the High Courts across India up to 2027.

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

Leg. II Section (L.D.)

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 852**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07th FEBRUARY 2025

Restriction on Political Largesse and Freebies

✓ 852. Prof. Sougata Ray:

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

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

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Election Commission of India has informed that in compliance of the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement dated 5th July, 2013 in SLP (C) No. 21455 of 2008, part VIII-"Guidelines on Election Manifesto" was added in the Model Code of Conduct of Political Parties and Candidates, which inter-alia

provides that in the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that the election manifesto also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirement for it.

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

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 7th FEBRUARY, 2025

Facilities to Women Advocates

✓ **854. Dr. Ganapathy Rajkumar P:**

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

- (a) the details of the facilities being provided to women advocates in Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for adequate financial help to women advocates in the country;
- (c) whether there is any reservation for women advocates for enrolment in Bar Association Job and Higher Education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) : 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 center) 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.

(b): The Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of Legal Affairs is concerned with the administration of the Advocates Act, 1961, under the provision of the said Act, there is no special provision for women. All class of Advocates are treated at a same pedestal. While central legislation may not provide gender-specific provisions, various State Bar Councils/Bar Association shave introduced schemes to support women advocates in various ways including financially.

(c) to (e): The Advocates Act, 1961 does not provide any specific provisions for the reservation of women. The Act treats all classes of advocates equally. As informed by the BCI, it has proactively directed the State Bar Councils to co-opt at least 25% women into various Disciplinary and other Committees of the Bar Council. This directive aims to ensure greater representation of women in key decision-making bodies within the legal fraternity, thereby fostering an environment of equity and diversity.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-904
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY - 07/02/2025

LOK ADALATS

✓ 904. SHRI DULU MAHATO:
SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the total number of cases received and resolved in National Lok Adalats, State Lok Adalats and Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services) in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the last three years;
- (b) the total number of cases taken up and successfully resolved by the State Legal Services Authorities in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh through additional Lok Adalats organized to reduce case pendency;
- (c) the total number of cases received and resolved through e-Lok Adalats in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh since its inception till date;
- (d) the total number of cases that were addressed and resolved during the National Lok Adalats held in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh on specific dates in the current year; and
- (e) the manner in which the number of cases received and resolved in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh compare to other States/UTs in terms of Lok Adalats organized over the past 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 State/UT-wise (including Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh) 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 three years are at Annexure-A, Annexure-B and Annexure-C respectively.

E-Lok Adalats started functioning during covid pandemic which significantly improved access to justice for people who were not able to participate in the Lok Adalats physically. The first E-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then E-Lok Adalats have been organized in 28 States / UTs. The State/UT-wise (including Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh) details of cases received and cases settled in E-Lok Adalats since June, 2020 are at Annexure-D. The figures of disposal of E-Lok Adalats are shown separately, but are included in National and State Lok Adalat cases.

(d): 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. Hence, no National Lok Adalat has been held yet in the current year.

(e): Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms. It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat. If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded to the parties. Lok Adalats have a uniform policy for dealing with cases, no distinction therefore exists between the States. Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have performed fairly well than many other States in disposing off cases in the Lok Adalats as evident from Annexures enclosed herewith.

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 904 for answering on 07.02.2025 raised by Shri Dulu Mahato and Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, MPs - Lok Adalats.

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

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
9	Daman & Diu	1959	215	43579	19650	23371	8234
10	Delhi	617852	535025	817332	671278	852367	665892
11	Goa	24461	3934	23018	3505	26816	4052
12	Gujarat	2731581	1185571	3926438	1863177	4410203	2161033
13	Haryana	1100069	673487	1343620	985650	1834082	1376486
14	Himachal Pradesh	255681	111150	368230	150181	365995	182024
15	Jammu & Kashmir	459202	390496	530332	404665	727975	679992
16	Jharkhand	1386756	1121405	3053483	2822947	5375328	5171277
17	Karnataka	5167842	3444607	17195581	14840452	15925526	14369064
18	Kerala	395978	136101	285372	57726	311233	59020
19	Ladakh	1948	1444	2796	1781	3026	2150
20	Lakshadweep	318	129	107	41	183	42
21	Madhya Pradesh	3125248	419776	3489492	536105	3389490	499888
22	Maharashtra	34223486	4754239	27444014	3543736	58086210	4675264
23	Manipur	1905	1343	636	437	1161	1003
24	Meghalaya	5318	956	4277	680	4506	915
25	Mizoram	13529	4432	10757	4087	6745	1230
26	Nagaland	3229	888	2566	801	2911	1021
27	Odisha	821017	337065	898167	348288	1323513	758705
28	Puducherry	21110	6405	23240	6297	25497	4331
29	Punjab	824437	392256	1140074	760712	1524941	1161869
30	Rajasthan	6685251	4572315	19870336	16586071	15188298	12303117
31	Sikkim	402	232	263	126	246	129
32	Tamil Nadu	840700	447536	704748	355762	769962	338520
33	Telangana	1622035	1611677	5634105	5591849	14750839	14693814
34	Tripura	30126	4814	50635	15724	79365	42910
35	Uttar Pradesh	30114718	18698973	47350615	31644594	48137476	38487330
36	Uttarakhand	100809	67438	116672	85032	98566	86813
37	West Bengal	1078663	788082	1445470	1115532	1739032	1315776
	Grand Total	97619931	41926010	142815010	85342217	184969393	104526119

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 904 for answering on 07.02.2025 raised by Shri Dulu Mahato and Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, MPs - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of cases received and disposed of (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in State Lok Adalats and benches constituted during the last three years

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

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 904 for answering on 07.02.2025 raised by Shri Duln Mahato and Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, MPs - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of number of sittings of Permanent Lok Adalats (PLA) PUS, cases received and cases settled in these sittings during the last three years.

S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25 (upto November, 2024)		
		Sitting during the year	Cases received during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases received during the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting during the year	Cases received during the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	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
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	773	18288	18682	781	19682	19337	527	14110	13917
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	479	53
12	Gujarat	1	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	3416	70102	72440	3659	101318	107362	2391	45375	33664
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	6216	30114	26154	5826	29779	35715	3777	18844	16872
17	Karnataka	904	7338	4588	603	4709	4190	894	3975	5594
18	Kerala	226	369	2564	415	262	1527	246	248	359
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	1176	514	608	1071	264	409	602	154	207
22	Maharashtra	1017	1370	1208	1023	779	485	656	467	714
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	753	1358	1612	1041	1344	1891	777	1541	1200
28	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	4902	12907	14545	4969	21521	20279	3328	13427	12047
30	Rajasthan	4435	4804	5072	4230	5382	5799	3416	3493	3168
31	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Tamil Nadu	1121	597	528	1119	439	427	706	312	314
33	Telangana	118	14101	7540	104	12136	12746	47	5867	7086
34	Tripura	70	165	162	97	152	157	77	155	121
35	Uttar Pradesh	3720	2637	1173	4476	2713	2516	2513	1278	1164
36	Uttarakhand	590	832	510	649	411	432	474	405	385
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		32487	175758	171138	33020	220724	232763	22394	126258	110643

Annexure-D

Statement as referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 904 for answering on 07.02.2025 raised by Shri Dulu Mahato and Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, MPs - Lok Adalats.

Statement containing the information of number of cases disposed (both Pre-litigative and Pending cases) in E-Lok Adalats organised from June, 2020 to November, 2024.

S. No	Name of the State/UT Authority	Cases received	Cases settled
1	Andhra Pradesh	22733	15714
2	Arunachal Pradesh	208	41
3	Bihar	67205	20547
4	Chandigarh	70	12
5	Chhattisgarh	30623	17624
6	Delhi	113080	96631
7	Goa	170	65
8	Gujarat	2707608	1786223
9	Haryana	13320	8610
10	Himachal Pradesh	272708	11932
11	Jammu & Kashmir	11204	7866
12	Jharkhand	239865	154879
13	Karnataka	350466	210096
14	Kerala	39526	26257
15	Madhya Pradesh	40253	8697
16	Maharashtra	98109644	8498126
17	Manipur	1053	829
18	Meghalaya	158	41
19	Mizoram	2024	330
20	Odisha	48078	5379
21	Punjab	14714	7175
22	Rajasthan	94590	36112
23	Sikkim	1372	319
24	Telangana	13337	11270
25	Tripura	3822	674
26	Uttar Pradesh	463037	303444
27	Uttarakhand	15759	4618
28	West Bengal	27938	10959
	Grand Total	102704565	11244470

Note: The figures of disposal of in E-Lok Adalats are shown separately, but are included in National and State Lok Adalat cases.

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

PENDING CASES IN COURTS

✓908. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps particularly to fill the vacant posts of judicial officers and staff in courts in order to reduce huge pendency of cases and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (b) whether Supreme Court and High Courts have also taken cognizance of such pendency and taken any remedial steps like reduction of holidays, increase of working hours, 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 the Department's MIS Portal, there are 5292 vacancies of Judicial Officers in the District and Subordinate Courts of the Country as on 03.02.2025.

Filling up of vacant positions in the case of District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government in consultation with the High Court frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in

the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts. A statement showing sanctioned strength and vacancies over the last five years in district and subordinate courts, State-wise is at *Annexure-I*.

(b): The Law Commission in its 230th Report on “Reforms in the Judiciary – Some Suggestions” had *inter-alia* suggested that considering the staggering arrears, the vacations in the higher judiciary must be curtailed by at least 10 to 15 days and the court working hours be extended by at least half an hour. The Report was forwarded to the Chief Justices of all High Courts to consider the suggestions for adoption.

As per the Supreme Court (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024, which amended the Supreme Court Rules, 2013, “The length of the partial Court working days and the number of holidays for the Court and the offices of the Court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the Official Gazette so as not to exceed ninety-five days excluding Sundays.”

Working days in the High Courts are regulated by the rules framed by the respective High Courts. The working days as well as working hours of the district/subordinate courts are also regulated by the respective high courts.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN COURTS'.

Sanctioned Strength and Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts for last five years													
Sl.	State/UTs	As on 31.12.2020		As on 31.12.2021		As on 31.12.2022		As on 31.12.2023		As on 31.12.2024		As on 03.02.2025	
No		Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies	Sanctioned Strength	Vacancies
1	Andhra Pradesh	607	97	607	116	607	73	618	83	623	59	639	75
2	Telangana	474	96	474	49	560	150	560	115	560	115	560	115
3	Arunachal Pradesh	41	9	41	9	41	8	44	10	44	11	44	11
4	Assam	466	54	467	31	485	60	485	46	485	24	485	24
5	Bihar	1936	503	1954	560	2016	667	2016	1550	2019	483	2019	483
6	Chandigarh	30	4	30	0	30	0	30	1	30	0	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	480	93	482	73	527	90	562	139	663	198	663	198
8	D & N Haveli and Daman and Diu	7	1	3	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1
9	Delhi	799	151	884	192	884	203	887	89	897	94	897	94
10	Goa	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10	50	10
11	Gujarat	1521	369	1523	400	1582	431	1720	545	1720	535	1720	535
12	Haryana	772	279	772	290	772	308	772	208	781	229	781	230
13	Himachal Pradesh	175	14	175	15	179	16	179	21	179	19	179	19
14	Jammu and Kashmir	296	41	300	59	314	91	317	94	322	46	322	43
15	Ladakh	16	8	17	8	17	8	17	7	17	6	17	6
16	Jharkhand	675	131	675	152	694	186	693	181	705	199	705	199
17	Karnataka	1357	286	1363	276	1365	233	1375	225	1375	219	1375	221
18	Kerala	538	68	569	81	595	122	605	91	611	77	612	79
19	Lakshadweep	3	0	3	0	4	0	4	1	4	0	4	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	2021	411	2021	469	2021	372	2028	298	2028	337	2028	336

21	Maharashtra	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250	2190	250		2190	250	2190	250
22	Manipur	54	18	59	17	59	17	59	10		62	13	62	13
23	Meghalaya	97	48	97	48	99	48	99	42		99	43	99	42
24	Mizoram	64	21	65	23	74	33	74	33		74	29	74	29
25	Nagaland	33	7	34	10	34	10	34	10		34	10	34	10
26	Odisha	950	194	976	191	1001	234	1008	205		1041	200	1041	200
27	Puducherry	26	15	26	15	28	17	29	19		36	10	36	10
28	Punjab	692	99	692	85	797	208	797	212		804	81	804	81
29	Rajasthan	1489	197	1549	275	1587	331	1638	296		1641	328	1654	342
30	Sikkim	25	5	28	8	30	9	35	12		35	12	35	12
31	Tamil Nadu	1298	249	1316	234	1340	272	1371	331		1369	346	1369	346
32	Tripura	120	23	122	25	128	20	128	20		133	24	133	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	3634	1053	3634	1092	3647	1173	3696	1247		3700	996	3700	996
34	Uttarakhand	297	42	299	28	299	30	298	27		298	28	298	28
35	West Bengal	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83	1014	83		1105	230	1105	230
36	A& N Island													
Total		24247	4929	24515	5175	25077	5764	25439	5428		25741	5262	25771	5292

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 911

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07th FEBRUARY, 2025

e-Courts Project Phase III

SS(CM)
e-courts
✓ 911. SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SMT. VIJAYLAKSHMI DEVI:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI ALOK SHARMA:
SHRI DINESHBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:
SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing judicial infrastructure to include more courts at district and sub-district level under Phase-III of e-Courts project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and State-wise including Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra, Durg Parliamentary Constituency and Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh and Keonjhar district of Odisha;
- (c) the manner in which Phase-III is addressing the issue of pendency of cases and whether there are any specific timelines or targets set for reducing pendency of cases through the new digital tools and systems introduced in the said phase, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any measures have been taken to train judicial staff and stakeholders to use the new technologies introduced through the e-Courts project, if so, the details of the training programmes planned or being implemented to ensure effective adoption of these technologies; and

- (e) the security protocols in place to safeguard sensitive legal data and prevent cyber threats within the judiciary?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): With a significant outlay of Rs.7210 crore, the eCourts Phase III Project underlines the importance which the Government attaches to the infrastructural needs of the courts in the country. Several initiatives have been planned and are under progress, to strengthen and expand the capacity of the existing infrastructure at the district and sub-district levels, including Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra, Durg Parliamentary Constituency, Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh and Keonjhar district of Odisha. Some of the major initiatives under the eCourts Phase III project include, making fully functional advanced e-Sewa Kendras in all court complexes, interlinking of all courts across the country, including High Courts and District and Subordinate courts, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the Indian judicial system and making the justice delivery system accessible, cost-effective, transparent, and accountable. Besides, infrastructure is being developed for paperless courts in a phase-wise manner, expansion of the virtual courts for hearing of court cases by creating a robust digital infrastructure, live streaming of court proceedings, digitisation of the entire court records, E-filing of cases and provision for video conferencing facilities. Some of the futuristic technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and others are also planned. For ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure, solar power facilities are being installed and obsolete hardware is being replaced. Migrating the District Court websites to the Secure, Scalable & Suganya Website as a Service (S3WAAS) platform is an ongoing process and efforts are on to provide adequate cloud storage facilities in the courts.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Bombay, under Phase III of the eCourts Project, ICT Infrastructure including, All-in-One Computers, Scanners, UPS (Uninterruptible power supply), Complete Hybrid Video Conferencing Systems, LAN (Local Area Network) Nodes, Display Board, MFD (Multi-Function Device) printers for existing courts has been provided in all the newly established courts in the State of Maharashtra including, District court, Jalgaon. eSewa Kendras, are also established which includes, various hardware at district and taluka courts in the State of Maharashtra. Also, two courts are identified as online courts in the district headquarter at Jalgaon, under Phase-III of the eCourts Project and distribution of the ICT infrastructure for the said online courts is in process.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Odisha, 4 new courts at the district headquarters and 4 new taluka courts have been provided with all the requisite ICT hardware including, All-in-One Computers, MFD Printers, UPS, LAN Nodes, Display monitors etc. Video conferencing facilities have been provided to all the 26 courts in the Keonjhar district. eSewa Kendras are functioning in 7 court complexes of the district, with requisite ICT hardware in place. One new Court Complex at Telkoi is being provided with prescribed ICT Hardware items i.e. Projector with Screen, 2 KVA UPS, 2 TB Hard disk, 7.5KVA DG Sets etc. Under online court, 2 courts namely, ADJ-cum-Spl. Judge (Vig.) Court and Judge Family Court are being provided with prescribed Hardware Items i.e. WACOM (Interactive display), PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) Camera, VC (Video conferencing) Unit, High Speed Scanner, Computer System, LED (Light-emitting diode) Display etc.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Chhattisgarh, ICT infrastructure was provided to 467 Courts in 23 Districts in the earlier phases, which is now proposed to be increased to 653 courts. As on date, as far as Bemetara district is concerned, 14 courts are proposed to be covered under eCourts Project and for the Durg Parliamentary Constituency, 76 courts are

proposed to be covered under eCourts Phase III with requisite ICT infrastructure. The details are at Annexure I.

(c): No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff 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. As far as, the technological interventions are concerned, under eCourts Project, the Wide Area Network (WAN) has been extended to 99.5% court complexes, 27 Virtual Courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs to try traffic offences, litigants have access to case information through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), VC facilities have been operationalized between 3240 Courts and related 1272 Prisons, live streaming of court proceedings is functional in the 9 High Courts, e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7. As on date, 12,19,214 cases have been filed in High Courts and 49,04,673 have been filed in District & Taluka Courts (Total 61,23,887) using eFiling facility. Apart from this, 1540 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District & Subordinate courts and 39 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts including 3 benches of Gauhati High Court have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants.

(d): The details of the training programs conducted by the eCommittee, SCI covering various stakeholders, like, courts staff, advocates, Judges, etc., are available in the public domain at eCommittee, SCI webportal link: <https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/document-category/training-and-awareness-programmes/>.

(e): 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, 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.

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 911 for 07/02/2025 regarding e-Courts Project Phase III. The ICT Hardware provisioned for Durg Parliamentary Constituency and Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh under eCourts Project Phase-III, as received from High Court of Chhattisgarh are as below:

S. No.	Name of the District	Infrastructure hitherto provided at the District & Sub- District level under the eCourts Mission Mode Project*	Infrastructure proposed to be provided at the District & Sub- District level under the eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase III **
1	Surguja at Ambikapur	19	25
2	Korea at Baikunthpur	19	23
3	Balod	12	14
4	Baloda-Bazar	27	22
5	Balrampur at Ramanujganj	8	11
6	Bemetara	9	14
7	Bilaspur	35	65
8	Dantewara	13	17
9	Dhamtari	16	14
10	Durg	32	76
11	Bastar at Jagdalpur	14	17
12	Janjgir-Champa	22	34
13	Jashpur	19	16
14	Kanker	15	27
15	Kabirdham	12	14
16	Kondagaon	10	11
17	Korba	19	26
18	Mahasamund	18	24
19	Mungeli	7	10
20	Raigarh	31	39
21	Raipur	74	106
22	Rajnandgaon	22	30
23	Surajpur	14	18
	Total	467	653

Note: *Includes the courts where infrastructure has already been provided.

** This takes into account the courts where infrastructure has already been provided in previous phases, which is proposed to be increased in eCourts Phase III.