

2026

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

**1st PART OF BUDGET SESSION,
2026
270th SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA
[28th January ,2026
to
13th February, 2026]**

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 6
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES FOR ST AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE

✓ **SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:**

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

- (a) the legal aid services available for Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other marginalised people;
- (b) the functioning of specialised Legal Services Units for marginalised people;
- (c) the accessibility of Free Legal aid Services for such people;
- (d) whether eCourts Phase III includes enhanced easily accessibility features for rural and marginalised people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR REPLY ON 29.01.2026
REGARDING 'AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES FOR ST AND MARGINALISED
PEOPLE' ASKED BY SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH**

- (a) The Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society including Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.

In order to reach out to the citizens in every corner of the country, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk level up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) functions at the Supreme Court whereas, there are 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), 707 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 2440 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme.

- (b) NALSA has notified National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 which provides establishment of District Legal Services Clinics in:
- (a) all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, which shall be called the Village Legal Care and Support Centre; and
 - (b) jails, educational institutions, community centres, protection homes, courts, juvenile justice boards and other areas, especially where the people face geographical, social and other barriers for access to the legal services institutions.

The primary objective of these clinics is to facilitate access to legal services for individuals facing geographical, social, or other barriers. The clinics are manned by Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), who assist in providing legal aid and spreading legal awareness. There are 13,588 Legal Services Clinics which are functional across the

country. The details of persons benefitted through Legal Services Clinics during the last three financial years are as follows:-

Year	No. of Persons Benefited
2023-24	10,36,040
2024-25	13,41,986
2025-26 (upto November, 2025)	12,19,722

(c) The following steps have been taken by the NALSA to ensure the accessibility of free legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society including SC/ST:-

- (i) NALSA has created a web portal to file an application for getting legal assistance wherein application can be filed in ten different languages i.e. English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Gujarati, Bengali, Odia and Kannada.
- (ii) The official website of NALSA has been revamped to ensure greater accessibility, efficiency, and responsiveness in service delivery. The upgraded digital platform enables easier navigation, faster access to legal aid-related information and seamless integration with Legal Services Authorities across the country. Websites of all State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) are directly accessible through the NALSA portal, providing a unified and user-friendly interface for citizens to access information on empaneled lawyers, PLVs and legal services.
- (iii) NALSA has launched a Legal Services Mobile App for Android and IOS version which facilitate seeking legal assistance, legal advice, tracking of application, applying for victim compensation, seeking redressal of other grievances etc.
- (iv) Legal Services Authorities are also providing legal advice through NALSA's National Toll-Free Helpline Number 15100 through IVRS Technology. From 09.11.2023 to 21.01.2026, 12.51 lakh calls have been received on NALSA helpline number 15100.

- (d) & (e) The eCourts Mission Mode Project, under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), is one of the most significant initiatives to modernize the Indian judiciary through technology to make justice delivery faster, more transparent, and accessible to all citizens. Phase I, initiated in 2011, primarily focused on establishing the foundational digital infrastructure of the judiciary. It achieved computerization of 14,249 District and Subordinate Courts, installation of Local Area Network (LAN) in 13,683 courts, and software enablement of 13,672 courts for digital case management, video conferencing facilities in 493 courts and 347 jails. Building upon this groundwork, Phase II, implemented from 2015 to 2023, expanded the scope from basic computerization to providing citizen-centric digital services. The number of computerized courts rose to 18,735, Video conferencing facilities expanded to 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails, reflecting the growing reliance on digital hearings. Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity reached 99.5% of court complexes, ensuring robust network access. This phase also saw the introduction of key platforms such as the Free and Open-Source Case Information System (CIS), the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as a transparent online repository of case data, and the establishment of eSewa Kendras to provide front-end facilitation services to citizens and lawyers.

The Government has demonstrated its commitment in modernizing judiciary with advanced digital infrastructure by significantly increasing the budget of Phase III (2023–2027) to ₹7,210 crore to transform Indian courts into Digital and Paperless Courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and hospitals, and extending online courts beyond traffic violations. It also aims for universal saturation of eSewa Kendras.

Overall, from its modest beginnings in Phase I to the deep technological infusion in Phase III, the eCourts Mission Mode Project has evolved into a cornerstone of judicial reforms in India. Each phase has not only expanded digital capacity but also progressively enhanced accessibility, transparency, and efficiency. This has resulted moving the Indian judiciary decisively toward a modern, technology-driven justice delivery system that is accessible anytime, anywhere, and on any device by citizens including rural and marginalised.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.11
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026

JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ODISHA

JR
JSC(VM)JR-II)

✓1 Shri Muzibulla Khan:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen judicial infrastructure in Odisha, particularly in Cuttack and district courts;
- (b) the current judge-population ratio in the State;
- (c) the steps taken to reduce pendency of cases in Odisha High Court;
- (d) whether additional benches of High Court are under consideration; and
- (e) the measures taken to improve access to justice in tribal and backward districts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.11 FOR REPLY ON 29.01.2026
REGARDING 'JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ODISHA'.**

(a) The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Judiciary rests with the State Governments/UTs. However, to augment the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94, by providing financial assistance in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States/UTs. The fund sharing pattern for the State of Odisha is 60:40 for Centre and State. The Scheme covers five components, viz. Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Total Central assistance of Rs.284.77 crore (as on 31.12.2025) has been provided to the State of Odisha since inception of the Scheme, out of which Rs. 194.53 crore has been provided since FY 2014-15. As on 31.12.2025, State of Odisha have 913 Court Halls and 778 Residential units.

(b) As per the latest information provided by the Odisha High Court, the current Judge population ratio of the State is approximately 20.50 against the national average of approximately 22 Judges per million population.

(c) Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. No fixed 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, litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. However, the Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary 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.

Further, use of alternative dispute resolution mechanism, establishing Family Courts and Fast track Courts is being promoted for speedy resolution of disputes. The disposal of old cases particularly 10, 20 or 30 years old is also monitored by the High Court as per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India set out in Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAAr-DJ).

(d) High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000. The proposal from the State Government with a commitment to provide necessary

expenditure and infrastructural facilities along with the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and approval of the Governor of the concerned State are a prerequisite for processing such cases. At present there is no such proposal pending with the Government for setting up of a Bench of Odisha High Court.

(e) In order to improve access to justice in tribal and backward districts, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice has imparted pre-litigation Legal Advice to 4,06,886 citizens through the programme of Tele-Law under the Scheme of Designing Innovative Solution for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA). Details of beneficiaries are as under:

Legal Advice Enabled-Gender and Category-wise (As on 31.12.2025)		
Gender	Female	1,45,524
	Male	2,61,362
	Total	4,06,886
Category	OBC	97,919
	SC	1,37,540
	ST	94,159
	General	77,268
	Total	4,06,886

NALSA has also promulgated various schemes for the beneficiaries and regulations to ensure effective discharge of the obligations by the Legal Services Institutions set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. In the current financial year (up to November 2025), 12,286 persons have been provided legal aid in the State of Odisha through various schemes. During the year 2025, Odisha State Legal Services Authority has organised four National Lok Adalats through which 9,97,458 cases were settled.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 15
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026
SUPREME COURT'S SOP

NM
SSCNMOR-I)

✓15. SHRI GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has introduced and implemented a new Standard Operating Procedure prescribing timelines for oral arguments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the above move would help in court management and quickening in disposal of cases; and
- (c) whether the above SOP is applicable to the Supreme Court only or to all other courts in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 FOR ANSWER ON 29.01.2026 REGARDING 'SUPREME
COURT'S SOP '**

(a): Yes. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure prescribing timelines for oral arguments in all post-notice and Regular Hearing matters which have been notified vide Circular F.No.29/Judl./2025 dated 29.12.2025 and is available on the website of the Hon'ble Court. Copy of the Circular is at **Annexure**.

(b): It is anticipated that the introduction of the new SOP prescribing timelines for oral arguments in all post-notice and Regular Hearing matters will go a long way in early disposal of the cases. This will ensure equitable distribution of Court working hours to ensure speedy and proper administration of justice and will also prevent delays from excessively long arguments. Besides this, the arguing Counsel and/or Senior Advocates, through their Advocate-on-Record or Nodal Counsel nominated by the Hon'ble Court, if any, are now required to file a brief Note/written submission not exceeding five pages, after serving its copy open the other side, at least three days prior to the date of hearing. These synopses will help to avoid the Counsel from repeating the points, they have already argued. In addition to this, since the timelines are fixed, the counsel will restrict their arguments before the Hon'ble Court and will present only the most crucial ones.

(c): The SOP prescribing timelines for oral arguments in all post-notice and Regular matters is applicable only to Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 15 FOR ANSWER ON 29.01.2026 REGARDING 'SUPREME COURT'S SOP'**

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

F.NO. 29/Judl./2025

Date: 29.12.2025

CIRCULAR

In order to facilitate effective Court Management and equitable distribution of Court working hours and to ensure speedy and proper administration of justice, as directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India and all the Hon'ble Judges, there shall be a *Standard Operating Procedure* for adhering to timelines for submission of oral arguments in all cases, with immediate effect:

- 1) Senior Advocates, Arguing counsel and /or Advocate-on-record, shall submit the *timelines for making oral arguments* in all *post-notice* and *Regular Hearing matters*, at least a day prior to the commencement of the hearing of the case.

The same shall be submitted to the Hon'ble Court through the online portal for submitting Appearance Slips already provided to the Advocate-on-record.

- 2) Arguing counsel and/or Senior Advocates, through their Advocate-on-record or Nodal Counsel/s nominated by Hon'ble Court, if any, shall file a brief Note/written submission not exceeding five (5) pages, after serving its copy on the other side, at least three (3) days prior to the date of hearing, in order to ensure compliance of such timeline; and.
- 3) All counsel shall strictly adhere to the timelines fixed and conclude their oral arguments.

sd/-

(Anupam Patra)
OSD/Registrar (Tech)

sd/-

(Rajesh Sharma)
OSD/Registrar (JA-II)

sd/-

(Dr. Ajit Atri)
OSD/Registrar (JA-I)

sd/-

(Pavanesh D)
Registrar (JL)

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.63
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

FREE LEGAL AID SERVICES

JSCLAP)
✓ 63 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether free legal aid services are provided under the Legal Services Authorities Act and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries assisted during the last five years, year-wise and cases-wise;
- (c) whether the quality, outreach and accountability of legal aid lawyers are independently monitored, including performance measures, grievance data and audit findings and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the current trends in pendency and case disposal rates for legal aid cases; and
- (e) the budget allocated and spent on legal aid services, along with gaps in implementation and recent data?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) & (b): The Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities.

In order to reach out to the citizens in every corner of the country, the legal services authorities have been setup from the Taluk level up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) functions at the Supreme Court whereas, there are 38 High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), 37 State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), 707 District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 2440 Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). The activities/programmes undertaken by Legal Services Authorities include Legal Aid and advice; Legal Awareness Programmes; Legal Services Clinics; Legal Literacy Clubs; Lok Adalats and implementation of Victim Compensation Scheme.

State/UT and year-wise details of number of persons benefitted through free legal services under Legal Services Authorities Act during the last five financial years are at **Annexure - A**. However, the district and case-wise data is not maintained by NALSA.

- (c) The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010 provide for a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating legal aid services through the Monitoring and Mentoring Committees (MMCs) at all tiers i.e. Supreme Court of India, High Courts, State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). These committees are responsible for overseeing court-based legal aid delivery, monitoring the progress of assigned cases, and guiding panel lawyers and Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) in providing quality legal services.

The MMCs maintain registers to track the day-to-day progress and final outcomes of legal aid cases. They obtain periodic reports from legal aid lawyers, assess their performance, and advise concerned authorities to take corrective steps when progress is unsatisfactory. This continuous follow-up mechanism ensures accountability, transparency, and quality control in legal services. The MMCs also evaluate lawyer's performance to identify underperformance or misconduct. Moreover, performance of each human resource engaged under LADCS is evaluated every six months by the SLSA under the guidance of Executive Chairman of the SLSA. Additionally, monthly reporting of casework by the LADCs is done by the SLSAs to NALSA, ensuring real-time oversight and data-driven evaluation at the national level.

- (d) The data related to pending legal aid cases is not maintained by NALSA. However, quality of disposal and their rates are regularly monitored through various level as detailed under para (c) above.
- (e) The details of funds released and utilized by NALSA for implementation of various legal aid services and programmes under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, during the last five financial years are as under:

Financial Year	Grant-in-Aid (in Rs.)	
	Funds Released	Funds Utilised
2021-22	145,00,00,000	145,00,00,000
2022-23	190,00,00,000	190,00,00,000
2023-24	400,00,00,000	399,31,50,685
2024-25	200,00,00,000	197,10,67,183
	147,92,50,000 (under LADCS Scheme)	114,66,93,380*
2025-26 (upto 18.01.2026)	200,00,00,000	144,65,24,026
	195,84,00,000 (under LADCS Scheme)	194,17,18,000

* Due to some technical glitches under newly introduced TSA/TSA Hybrid module of PFMS, SLSAs and DLSAs could not utilise complete fund during F.Y. 2024-25 under the Scheme of Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS).

Annexure - A

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 63 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding –Free legal aid services.

Statement showing the number of persons benefited through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26 (upto November, 2025)

S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (upto November, 2025)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	79	134	220	341	278
2	Andhra Pradesh	6,371	9,473	8,265	11,266	9,069
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2,657	5,559	5,696	9,236	6,696
4	Assam	1,10,254	38,335	63,749	82,694	66,567
5	Bihar	16,89,158	2,09,809	1,51,413	84,505	51,333
6	Chandigarh	1,781	2,653	2,822	2,951	2,202
7	Chhattisgarh	42,394	44,106	62,164	80,874	55,547
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27	28	55	45	61
	Daman & Diu	17	24	34	119	92
9	Delhi	79,055	96,433	1,21,882	76,526	48,922
10	Goa	1,101	2,041	1,558	1,889	2,359
11	Gujarat	21,953	32,422	40,569	50,467	60,168
12	Haryana	23,260	43,098	76,863	82,194	85,858
13	Himachal Pradesh	4,806	5,998	7,346	6,222	4,442
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8,870	7,992	11,396	18,602	16,966
15	Jharkhand	6,49,481	1,45,217	2,69,303	3,28,365	2,95,398
16	Karnataka	32,794	45,663	53,406	51,245	41,089
17	Kerala	16,895	23,418	36,498	26,571	24,175
18	Ladakh	2,408	711	505	324	181
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	1	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	33,43,800	1,91,921	2,25,510	2,33,009	1,65,804
21	Maharashtra	22,595	36,663	53,756	59,454	40,935
22	Manipur	22,651	26,929	62,635	99,062	54,743
23	Meghalaya	2,346	2,769	2,371	2,754	3,378
24	Mizoram	3,201	5,038	4,801	3,713	2,427
25	Nagaland	7,750	7,390	4,603	5,012	7,418
26	Odisha	8,849	11,880	19,289	22,134	12,286
27	Puducherry	884	788	621	616	362
28	Punjab	36,404	56,448	60,361	65,513	55,037

29	Rajasthan	13,833	13,472	20,290	22,216	19,454
30	Sikkim	986	1,127	1,074	901	814
31	Tamil Nadu	38,181	49,570	45,180	52,528	37,759
32	Telangana	6,712	12,615	13,193	16,021	13,909
33	Tripura	2,671	5,055	9,964	10,303	7,943
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,32,629	24,890	29,079	22,732	20,861
35	Uttarakhand	3,775	5,386	21,339	34,208	35,333
36	West Bengal	29,015	49,714	62,354	92,914	72,350
	Total	63,69,643	12,14,769	15,50,164	16,57,527	13,22,230

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 114
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

Notary Cell (DoLA)

DIGITAL MODERNISATION OF LEGAL SERVICES

**114 Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:
Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni:
Shri Narayana Koragappa:**

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

- (a) the services offered through the Notary Portal under the Notaries Act, 1952;
- (b) the number of digitally signed Certificates of Practice issued;
- (c) the measures adopted to ensure transparency and efficiency;
- (d) whether additional digital modules are proposed to expand the portal's scope; and
- (e) if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): The Government has launched the Notary Portal as a dedicated platform for providing online services for the works related to the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. It is intended to provide an online interface between the Notaries and the Government for various services like submission of applications for appointment as Notaries, verification of eligibility for appointment as Notaries, issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice as a Notary, renewal of Certificate of Practice, change of practice area, submission of annual return etc. The Notary Portal provides a faceless, paperless, transparent and efficient system. Presently, only the module related to verification of documents and eligibility and issuance of digitally signed Certificate of Practice to the newly appointed Notaries is live. Prior to launch of the Notary Portal, Certificate of Practice used to be issued physically to the Notaries. As on 23.01.2026, more than 36000 digitally signed Certificates of Practice have been issued to the newly appointed Notaries for various States and Union Territories through the Notary Portal.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 116
ANSWERED ON-29/01/2026**

Representation of SCs/STs and OBCs in judiciary

JSC Appnts)
✓16. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts against the sanctioned strength, State-wise;
- (b) the number of SC/ST/OBC judges in the Supreme Court and the percentage of representation of SCs/STs and OBCs;
- (c) the number of SC/ST/OBC judges in High Courts across the country, State-wise along with the percentage of representation of SCs/STs and OBCs;
- (d) the details of criteria for sanctioning the number of posts in a district; and
- (e) the year in which population was considered for sanctioning existing number of sanctioned posts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): The information is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II*.

Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 847 Judges appointed from 2018

till 23.01.2026, 33 belong to SC category, 17 belong to ST category, 104 belong to OBC category and 46 belong to the minority category. 130 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

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

In so far as the District and subordinate judiciary is 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 State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts frame the rules and regulations regarding appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The issues relating to fixation of strength, selection and appointment of Judicial Officers in the Subordinate/District Courts is in the domain of the High Courts and State Governments concerned.

Sanctioned strength, working strength, vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts (As on 27.01.2026)

		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
A.	Supreme Court	34	33	1
B.	High Court	Total	Total	Total
1	Allahabad	160	110	50
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	32	5
3	Bombay	94	80	14
4	Calcutta	72	43	29
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	7
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	35	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	14	11
11	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12	Karnataka	62	46	16
13	Kerala	47	40	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	42	11
15	Madras	75	53	22
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	19	14
19	Patna	53	38	15
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	61	24
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	28	14
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	10	1
	Total	1122	814	308

Working Strength of SC/ST/OBC in District and Subordinate Court as on 21.01.2026													
Sl. No.	States & UT	Civil Judge (Junior Division)			Civil Judge (Senior Division)			District Judge/DJ			Total SC/ST/OBC	Total Working Strength	% of SC/ST/OBC of total Working Strength
		SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC			
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	53	18	122	19	9	46	36	5	55	363	572	63.46
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13	0	0	15	0	0	10	1	39	39	100
4	Assam	16	23	0	12	21	0	6	7	0	85	461	18.44
5	Bihar	134	5	299	66	5	105	53	4	75	746	1665	44.8
6	Chandigarh	9	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	14	29	48.28
7	Chhattisgarh	26	57	27	17	45	26	30	26	37	291	465	62.58
8	D & N Haveli	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	100
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	25
10	Delhi	41	33	0	17	2	0	12	3	0	108	837	12.9
11	Goa	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	40	10
12	Gujarat	59	1	34	50	4	151	8	0	33	340	1185	28.69
13	Haryana	42	0	57	41	0	18	21	0	21	200	649	30.82
14	Himachal Pradesh	11	5	7	8	4	6	5	1	2	49	172	28.49
15	Jammu and Kashmir	13	11	3	6	7	1	9	5	2	57	270	21.11
16	Jharkhand	15	31	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	497	12.47
17	Karnataka	73	18	269	93	21	265	60	8	189	996	1129	88.22
18	Kerala	22	3	120	11	1	49	10	1	123	340	577	58.93
19	Ladakh	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	1	8	9	88.89
20	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	75
21	Madhya Pradesh	101	29	115	80	113	81	82	90	112	803	1639	48.99
22	Maharashtra	140	2	266	43	3	128	44	2	106	734	1940	37.84
23	Manipur	0	6	3	0	4	2	0	4	0	19	49	38.78
24	Meghalaya	0	15	0	0	21	0	0	18	0	54	57	94.74
25	Mizoram	0	13	0	0	17	0	0	15	0	45	45	100
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0
27	Odisha	33	5	75	0	0	5	0	0	0	118	649	18.18
28	Puducherry	3	0	12	0	0	4	0	0	4	23	26	88.46
29	Punjab	100	0	53	49	0	25	33	0	20	280	702	39.89
30	Rajasthan	100	66	129	59	54	87	58	24	92	669	1490	44.9
31	Sikkim	0	1	3	0	2	3	0	5	9	23	23	100
32	Tamil Nadu	132	9	426	80	5	274	43	1	235	1205	1234	97.65
33	Telangana	38	20	96	15	7	48	15	13	55	307	445	68.99
34	Tripura	5	6	0	5	10	0	5	6	0	37	119	31.09
35	Uttar Pradesh	212	16	298	135	15	189	187	7	355	1414	2640	53.56
36	Uttarakhand	16	3	13	12	4	15	18	5	9	95	270	35.19
37	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	863	0
TOTAL		1,395	413	2,446	818	394	1,532	736	261	1,539	9534	20,833	45.76

Source: MIS Portal of Department of Justice

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 117
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026

JSCLAP) FREE LEGAL SERVICES IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL MATTERS

✓117 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

the details of persons who got free legal services in civil and criminal matters for the conduct of a case or a legal proceeding in any Court, Tribunal or Authority by National Legal Service Authority during the last five years, State, gender and category-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

State/UT and category-wise details of number of persons who got benefitted through free legal services in both the matters (including civil and criminal) provided by the Legal Services Authorities during the last five financial years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto November, 2025) are at **Annexure-A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5** respectively.

Annexure - A1

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding – Free legal services in civil and criminal matters.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2021-2022.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In Custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	22	0	22	0	7	0	0	0	2	26	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	133	43	725	26	1,692	14	1	1	3	0	684	3,049	6,371
3	Arunachal Pradesh	242	821	740	114	676	0	0	0	1	10	28	25	2,657
4	Assam	7,822	14,017	10,352	2,478	6,761	2,033	1,961	0	71	7,359	23,381	34,019	1,10,254
5	Bihar	15,335	517	18,372	7,525	30,190	584	500	68	0	4,018	63,666	15,48,383	16,89,158
6	Chandigarh	17	0	744	131	473	8	0	0	0	0	326	82	1,781
7	Chhattisgarh	3,753	8,459	6,821	663	9,309	18	177	0	0	256	4,902	8,036	42,394
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	2	12	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	27
	Daman & Diu	1	0	13	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
9	Delhi	723	7	16,496	2,857	28,435	92	428	1	1	0	7,366	22,649	79,055
10	Goa	3	3	495	4	219	48	18	0	0	0	309	2	1,101
11	Gujarat	1,354	773	6,074	259	6,720	221	69	0	1	0	3,755	2,727	21,953
12	Haryana	730	0	5,516	206	12,789	53	8	4	0	0	2,420	1,534	23,260

13	Himachal Pradesh	351	69	2,510	63	387	49	57	1	0	3	772	544	4,806
14	Jammu & Kashmir	211	331	2,474	119	503	664	236	15	0	12	2,100	2,205	8,870
15	Jharkhand	15,346	28,628	63,113	11,570	11,039	1,154	6,281	110	5,000	2,375	46,194	4,58,671	6,49,481
16	Karnataka	5,835	5,767	5,975	315	3,313	84	34	6	0	0	1,200	10,265	32,794
17	Kerala	1,037	253	7,261	643	3,681	116	59	13	4	15	3,130	683	16,895
18	Ladakh	48	1,479	325	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	513	2,408
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	8,19,053	10,96,264	3,16,946	1,37,320	55,307	291	29	10	0	508	4,80,489	4,37,583	33,43,800
21	Maharashtra	1,656	785	9,366	359	4,507	108	21	2	5	25	4,105	1,656	22,595
22	Manipur	1,558	7,212	6,648	1,174	556	195	118	20	43	2,622	1,201	1,304	22,651
23	Meghalaya	21	698	447	204	777	15	0	67	5	2	59	51	2,346
24	Mizoram	104	1,700	414	43	832	0	0	0	0	0	17	91	3,201
25	Nagaland	471	3,934	1,763	649	352	163	0	0	0	6	396	16	7,750
26	Odisha	1,187	1,095	2,299	23	2,293	138	12	16	3	0	1,127	656	8,849
27	Puducherry	30	3	161	135	343	0	0	130	0	0	61	21	884
28	Punjab	2,429	7	8,184	254	14,717	236	41	1	0	0	5,976	4,559	36,404
29	Rajasthan	144	51	897	5,070	6,770	13	0	0	0	0	472	416	13,833
30	Sikkim	29	100	425	26	280	1	0	0	0	0	67	58	986
31	Tamil Nadu	1,281	299	7,279	270	12,183	124	35	42	1	40	5,887	10,740	38,181
32	Telangana	89	33	1,244	46	1,997	2	0	0	0	0	1,426	1,875	6,712
33	Tripura	246	154	1,490	36	228	3	0	0	0	0	390	124	2,671
34	Uttar Pradesh	5,983	6	27,452	98	8,110	91	169	0	3	3	4,675	86,039	1,32,629
35	Uttarakhand	142	22	1,060	37	1,845	25	12	0	0	38	471	123	3,775
36	West Bengal	2,066	693	7,093	1,128	9,349	212	45	13	15	2	7,933	466	29,015
	Total	8,89,431	11,74,225	5,41,208	1,73,888	2,36,665	6,755	10,320	520	5,156	17,294	6,74,987	26,39,194	63,69,643

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding – Free legal services in civil and criminal matters.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2022-2023

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0	45	0	26	1	1	0	0	0	2	58	134
2	Andhra Pradesh	253	87	1,241	89	1,989	29	1	4	339	0	1,429	4,012	9,473
3	Arunachal Pradesh	536	1,923	1,431	13	1,582	3	0	0	3	0	43	25	5,559
4	Assam	1,250	2,310	4,733	720	9,556	405	998	2	27	555	2,965	14,814	38,335
5	Bihar	12,281	1,727	21,011	8,816	37,872	206	119	0	1	660	2,280	1,24,836	2,09,809
6	Chandigarh	12	0	1,135	149	654	16	0	1	0	0	384	302	2,653
7	Chhattisgarh	4,362	8,960	5,959	416	11,693	18	24	2	5	0	5,253	7,414	44,106
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	18	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	28
	Daman & Diu	4	2	9	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	24
9	Delhi	1,709	40	24,106	568	29,370	246	2,198	5	8	1	12,850	25,332	96,433
10	Goa	9	56	898	7	281	61	4	0	0	0	712	13	2,041
11	Gujarat	2,989	1,625	9,674	498	7,882	67	59	6	2	15	6,651	2,954	32,422
12	Haryana	819	0	6,915	314	30,973	125	3	0	0	0	2,543	1,406	43,098
13	Himachal Pradesh	551	109	3,084	208	650	63	15	1	0	0	877	440	5,998
14	Jammu & Kashmir	571	362	2,630	202	722	324	58	8	0	6	1,186	1,923	7,992
15	Jharkhand	13,529	15,875	24,960	6,567	9,542	440	3,528	46	2	83	657	69,988	1,45,217
16	Karnataka	5,981	3,559	10,291	469	7,102	435	235	17	2	0	2,469	15,103	45,663

17	Kerala	877	277	11,513	1,435	3,961	239	24	9	17	246	3,205	1,615	23,418
18	Ladakh	18	420	180	12	2	14	32	0	0	17	13	3	711
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	23,789	17,704	38,843	22,379	53,796	934	979	183	0	108	12,942	20,264	1,91,921
21	Maharashtra	2,602	990	14,798	540	8,573	211	277	2	255	220	5,746	2,449	36,663
22	Manipur	1,300	11,021	8,732	1,908	1,161	246	139	17	0	218	1,290	897	26,929
23	Meghalaya	22	1,250	356	73	916	3	0	3	0	1	83	62	2,769
24	Mizoram	14	2,493	800	0	1,147	0	0	0	109	24	-95	356	5,038
25	Nagaland	511	3,736	1,492	551	620	84	0	0	0	0	396	0	7,390
26	Odisha	1,318	1,003	3,081	29	4,165	57	1	31	0	0	1,177	1,018	11,880
27	Puducherry	30	1	216	278	135	9	0	0	0	2	95	22	788
28	Punjab	4,874	42	14,075	354	20,213	330	248	31	15	25	10,286	5,955	56,448
29	Rajasthan	267	117	1,327	7,370	3,528	24	17	2	0	0	738	82	13,472
30	Sikkim	25	110	472	19	376	1	0	0	0	0	98	26	1,127
31	Tamil Nadu	2,533	379	11,878	272	9,501	152	133	31	0	6	7,641	17,044	49,570
32	Telangana	138	51	1,784	247	5,283	0	0	0	0	0	2,394	2,718	12,615
33	Tripura	448	563	2,379	143	344	1	0	0	0	0	784	393	5,055
34	Uttar Pradesh	6,764	2	2,238	935	7,838	6	10	1	0	26	4,377	2,693	24,890
35	Uttarakhand	150	20	1,266	144	2,961	54	10	0	0	0	626	155	5,386
36	West Bengal	3,258	1,742	12,017	1,261	15,545	246	95	41	21	6	14,239	1,243	49,714
	Total	93,796	78,556	2,45,587	56,986	2,89,969	5,050	9,215	443	806	2,219	1,06,527	3,25,615	12,14,769

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding – Free legal services in civil and criminal matters.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2023-2024

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	42	0	64	8	0	0	0	0	14	92	220
2	Andhra Pradesh	318	75	983	61	2,220	24	1	1	0	0	1,128	3,454	8,265
3	Arunachal Pradesh	628	2,006	1,453	84	1,440	4	17	0	0	0	41	23	5,696
4	Assam	1,254	3,098	6,168	2,366	17,711	188	1,286	1	2	813	8,922	21,940	63,749
5	Bihar	7,306	1,270	15,307	6,889	34,778	163	429	21	0	549	2,575	82,126	1,51,413
6	Chandigarh	15	0	1,355	238	418	8	0	1	0	0	692	95	2,822
7	Chhattisgarh	6,884	12,701	9,621	544	14,601	10	12	1	5	21	8,489	9,275	62,164
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	6	21	0	15	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	55
	Daman & Diu	4	2	14	1	7	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	34
9	Delhi	1,705	16	22,631	2,761	24,794	342	1,538	13	912	32,940	12,984	21,246	1,21,882
10	Goa	6	4	790	4	232	38	0	0	0	0	480	4	1,558
11	Gujarat	3,825	2,716	11,560	565	10,184	123	101	0	3	62	7,981	3,449	40,569
12	Haryana	1,568	0	7,818	468	35,367	137	7	3	0	26,611	3,151	1,733	76,863
13	Himachal Pradesh	547	143	3,195	90	725	81	0	8	13	553	897	1,094	7,346
14	Jammu & Kashmir	757	398	4,082	510	1,184	145	1	3	0	32	2,759	1,525	11,396
15	Jharkhand	21,387	27,451	47,687	14,730	19,352	770	5,266	664	34	59	2,534	1,29,369	2,69,303
16	Karnataka	6,751	3,876	11,955	932	8,647	340	314	39	2	0	3,210	17,340	53,406

17	Kerala	2,789	441	15,812	3,899	5,653	225	137	54	85	49	5,822	1,532	36,498
18	Ladakh	29	333	105	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	505
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	30,163	25,563	41,291	19,955	58,171	1,444	1,110	0	1	5	20,759	27,048	2,25,510
21	Maharashtra	2,298	635	17,566	964	20,687	287	158	52	389	17	5,823	4,880	53,756
22	Manipur	751	8,585	7,621	2,487	282	129	17	26	686	38,304	2,881	866	62,635
23	Meghalaya	27	716	490	68	865	0	0	0	0	3	81	121	2,371
24	Mizoram	4	2,528	537	62	599	218	0	0	0	0	62	791	4,801
25	Nagaland	373	2,342	557	137	628	56	0	0	0	0	510	0	4,603
26	Odisha	1,375	1,073	3,264	39	4,473	6,020	15	100	11	4	1,967	948	19,289
27	Puducherry	26	0	181	256	71	0	1	0	0	0	49	37	621
28	Punjab	5,287	28	13,714	419	24,764	243	101	6	1	447	9,968	5,383	60,361
29	Rajasthan	333	132	1,337	6,274	11,000	19	36	0	0	0	938	221	20,290
30	Sikkim	32	118	553	18	218	2	0	0	0	0	127	6	1,074
31	Tamil Nadu	1,881	782	10,962	178	8,989	135	90	6	11	32	7,186	14,928	45,180
32	Telangana	131	66	2,066	334	4,258	12	0	0	0	0	3,198	3,128	13,193
33	Tripura	795	831	3,732	286	1,115	41	0	38	24	0	1,610	1,492	9,964
34	Uttar Pradesh	2,776	83	2,487	1,654	7,328	231	89	251	0	1	4,964	9,215	29,079
35	Uttarakhand	626	215	2,358	846	14,701	47	49	2	0	32	1,570	893	21,339
36	West Bengal	5,020	2,590	14,423	1,404	18,383	101	111	18	69	7	18,516	1,712	62,354
	Total	1,07,673	1,00,823	2,83,738	69,526	3,53,924	11,591	10,899	1,308	2,248	1,00,541	1,41,892	3,66,001	15,50,164

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding – Free legal services in civil and criminal matters.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2024-2025.														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	120	20	3	1	42	0	0	0	28	127	341
2	Andhra Pradesh	234	47	1,162	107	3,289	8	1	3	0	0	1,437	4,978	11,266
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,658	3,946	1,979	237	1,330	8	30	2	1	0	33	12	9,236
4	Assam	1,536	6,183	9,000	3,130	25,489	276	1,464	122	2	8	12,126	23,358	82,694
5	Bihar	4,673	1,399	10,374	6,550	31,677	162	585	48	0	618	2,647	25,772	84,505
6	Chandigarh	30	0	1,330	106	780	7	0	0	0	0	667	31	2,951
7	Chhattisgarh	10,815	14,336	12,068	607	21,610	109	0	6	0	4	11,868	9,451	80,874
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	4	28	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	45
	Daman & Diu	10	10	39	4	24	3	12	1	1	1	14	0	119
9	Delhi	1,652	163	19,060	2,942	18,630	336	955	7	510	0	10,869	21,402	76,526
10	Goa	17	20	892	14	314	15	0	0	0	0	569	48	1,889
11	Gujarat	3,882	8,271	12,828	1,404	10,862	173	83	0	0	8	7,999	4,957	50,467
12	Haryana	1,689	0	7,766	572	66,229	65	7	2	0	0	3,936	1,928	82,194
13	Himachal Pradesh	545	88	3,159	112	703	86	8	1	0	3	835	682	6,222
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,269	573	5,592	1,730	1,299	705	1	5	1	40	6,159	1,228	18,602
15	Jharkhand	41,537	42,987	72,003	30,572	33,281	3,560	3,703	194	78	173	5,741	94,536	3,28,365
16	Karnataka	6,051	3,329	12,167	790	8,972	254	191	32	9	9	7,659	11,782	51,245
17	Kerala	1,362	724	12,741	2,330	3,473	176	85	31	73	37	3,794	1,745	26,571

18	Ladakh	0	80	192	9	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	324
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	22,764	23,211	35,058	18,240	93,264	669	2,908	0	0	241	15,748	20,906	2,33,009
21	Maharashtra	3,351	1,620	20,167	1,230	20,535	374	240	21	2	36	6,248	5,630	59,454
22	Manipur	346	6,989	7,697	1,504	498	159	48	19	0	78,868	2,433	501	99,062
23	Meghalaya	20	710	544	86	877	1	0	11	6	0	233	266	2,754
24	Mizoram	26	2,145	696	20	676	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	3,713
25	Nagaland	608	2,365	604	432	499	52	0	0	0	0	452	0	5,012
26	Odisha	1,609	1,111	3,957	221	11,536	179	5	40	7	468	2,027	974	22,134
27	Puducherry	31	0	155	240	100	0	0	0	0	0	53	37	616
28	Punjab	5,516	2	14,762	526	33,615	86	38	0	0	0	9,879	1,089	65,513
29	Rajasthan	333	103	1,812	5,755	13,064	27	2	1	0	0	1,109	10	22,216
30	Sikkim	18	118	464	25	167	1	0	0	0	0	103	5	901
31	Tamil Nadu	2,214	357	12,479	323	12,088	201	197	15	0	59	11,110	13,485	52,528
32	Telangana	323	189	2,586	158	5,635	31	0	0	0	0	3,053	4,046	16,021
33	Tripura	829	621	3,348	192	1,588	61	36	115	0	1,460	1,244	809	10,303
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,799	5	2,091	616	6,979	176	32	107	0	0	5,315	5,612	22,732
35	Uttarakhand	1,974	704	4,174	2,332	19,420	204	378	8	47	8	2,922	2,037	34,208
36	West Bengal	10,680	6,029	23,057	4,394	24,398	148	1,722	53	56	124	19,523	2,730	92,914
	Total	1,29,402	1,28,440	3,16,151	87,530	4,72,954	8,313	12,778	844	793	82,165	1,57,833	2,60,324	16,57,527

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 117 for answer on 29.01.2026 regarding – Free legal services in civil and criminal matters.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2025-2026 (upto November, 2025).														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	78	24	37	0	6	0	0	0	27	106	278
2	Andhra Pradesh	180	28	1,221	100	2,622	13	0	0	0	0	1,510	3,395	9,069
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,171	2,596	1,311	119	752	40	99	0	1	1	37	569	6,696
4	Assam	1,838	3,698	6,216	3,046	20,034	77	2,371	16	50	0	9,652	19,569	66,567
5	Bihar	2,489	727	6,908	5,743	20,819	105	570	24	0	625	1,916	11,407	51,333
6	Chandigarh	6	2	912	65	584	4	0	0	0	0	602	27	2,202
7	Chhattisgarh	7,863	9,327	7,877	620	15,449	14	0	0	0	1	7,320	7,076	55,547
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	50	0	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	61
	Daman & Diu	4	4	39	3	14	0	15	0	0	0	10	3	92
9	Delhi	1,118	41	13,098	2,097	13,713	224	233	7	1	0	6,494	11,896	48,922
10	Goa	14	31	1,261	3	208	12	0	0	0	0	796	34	2,359
11	Gujarat	4,117	9,021	13,368	2,991	10,303	167	18	0	0	29	7,389	12,765	60,168
12	Haryana	1,182	2	7,149	644	70,890	161	27	1	0	0	3,758	2,044	85,858
13	Himachal Pradesh	405	62	2,138	73	489	51	4	0	233	43	633	311	4,442
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,323	1,151	4,292	2,109	2,427	250	9	1	0	620	3,432	1,352	16,966
15	Jharkhand	34,946	36,321	78,886	33,453	23,046	2,832	2,366	91	11	1	6,022	77,423	2,95,398
16	Karnataka	4,414	2,489	9,790	529	8,254	98	132	76	1	5	5,288	10,013	41,089
17	Kerala	931	418	11,459	1,025	4,222	95	223	6	3	0	3,369	2,424	24,175

18	Ladakh	0	81	77	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181
19	Lakshadweep	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	11,286	12,229	34,095	18,939	58,602	286	1,912	0	0	0	11,787	16,668	1,65,804
21	Maharashtra	2,024	748	12,954	1,803	13,121	904	190	29	72	66	4,621	4,403	40,935
22	Manipur	266	4,665	6,228	1,564	622	216	99	18	0	38,020	1,523	1,522	54,743
23	Meghalaya	19	1,077	427	188	431	0	0	0	0	5	133	1,098	3,378
24	Mizoram	2	1,508	537	32	58	0	0	0	15	0	35	240	2,427
25	Nagaland	1,166	2,343	1,012	1,389	375	224	0	0	0	0	909	0	7,418
26	Odisha	981	712	2,802	83	5,837	74	8	4	6	14	1,221	544	12,286
27	Puducherry	22	0	101	101	84	0	0	0	0	0	37	17	362
28	Punjab	4,906	5	10,561	525	28,290	1,022	29	6	0	0	8,200	1,493	55,037
29	Rajasthan	322	83	1,816	4,375	11,216	31	3	0	0	0	1,580	28	19,454
30	Sikkim	16	78	442	22	128	7	0	0	0	0	115	6	814
31	Tamil Nadu	1,406	274	8,533	399	9,336	117	60	18	3	2	8,359	9,252	37,759
32	Telangana	326	190	1,898	370	5,303	11	0	0	0	0	2,079	3,732	13,909
33	Tripura	756	688	2,246	197	1,012	34	0	36	0	0	748	2,226	7,943
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,571	189	2,797	1,230	6,330	495	44	349	0	0	3,656	4,200	20,861
35	Uttarakhand	1,572	805	4,918	3,189	17,615	251	679	4	0	0	3,289	3,011	35,333
36	West Bengal	7,292	3,099	17,171	3,188	21,253	490	557	40	49	48	14,509	4,654	72,350
	Total	95,939	94,701	2,74,668	90,238	3,73,507	8,305	9,657	726	445	39,480	1,21,056	2,13,508	13,22,230

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 118
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

NM
JSC(NMJR-I)

JUDGE-TO-POPULATION RATIO

✓118 Shri Pramod Tiwari:

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

- (a) the present judge-to-population ratio in the country;
- (b) the ratio as recommended by the Law Commission in its 120th report;
- (c) the number of undertrials in the country in 2023, as per the latest report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)/ MHA;
- (d) the reasons for undertrials spending a long time in prisons; and
- (e) the steps taken for expeditious disposal of cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): At present, the judge-to-population ratio in the country works out to be approximately 22 Judges per million population. In order to calculate the judge population ratio for per million population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.85 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2026. The Law Commission, in its 120th Report, has recommended a judge-to-population ratio of 50 judges per million of the Indian population.

(c) to (e): The number of undertrials in the country in 2023, as per the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)/MHA are 3,89,910. The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. The pendency of cases in courts arises due to several factors, which, inter alia, include the complexity of the facts involved, the nature of evidence, the cooperation of stakeholders, viz., the bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, and litigants, as well as the availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff. The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, which includes, *inter-alia*, amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to justice and greater transparency under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and supplementing of the resources of the State Governments/UTs for providing suitable infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Judiciary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 119
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

ADR Cell (DOLA)

**CASES RESOLVED THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
MECHANISMS**

119. Smt. Sagarika Ghose:

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

- (a) the number of cases resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms during the last five years;
- (b) the number of cases resolved that have exceeded the prescribed resolution period of 180 days during that period;
- (c) the number of cases concluded by Lok Adalats which subsequently resulted in the filing of a suit by an aggrieved party during that period; and
- (d) the current status of establishment of Arbitration Council of India as mandated under Part 1A of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the reasons for the delay?

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) Being part of ADR, under the Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism under Section 12A, 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 details of commercial disputes settled through pre-institution mediation under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, since the amendment in the year 2018, are as follows:

Period	No. of applications received for mediation	No. of application where mediation remains non- starter	No. of application where parties reached for settlement
July, 2018 to March, 2019	3680	1660	25
2019-20	18080	14470	167
2020-21	18364	14014	186
2021-22	32335	28441	368
2022-23	46412	41898	1449
2023-24	51019	47185	1139
2024-25	59568	52730	877
2025-26 (up to Sep 25)	47218	30353	643

However, as the ADR is party autonomy driven and the parties for ADR take recourse with ad hoc mediation and various mediation institutions, for which no formal data is available.

(b) No such data is maintained by the Government.

(c) Lok Adalats are organised across the country under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009 for the subject matters as prescribed under the said Act and Regulations in the Courts and Tribunals as defined under Section 2 (aaa) of the said Act. In Lok Adalats, the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are attempted to be settled amicably. The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, recognizing its efficacy as an expeditious, less costly and speedier system of administration of justice. Under Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Award made by Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties to the dispute and no appeal lies to any court against the Award.

The National Legal Services Authority maintains information only with respect to cases settled/disposed of in Lok Adalats. The details of pre-litigation and pending cases settled/disposed of through Lok Adalats during the last five years are as follows:

(i) Disposal of cases in National Lok Adalats

Years	Pre-litigation	Pending Cases	Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
2025	12,65,89,535	2,18,35,515	14,84,25,050

(ii) Disposal of cases in State Lok Adalats

Years	Pre-litigation	Pending Cases	Total
2021-22	1,14,278	4,18,251	5,32,529
2022-23	94,939	7,56,370	8,51,309
2023-24	2,19,230	9,87,873	12,07,103
2024-25	8,05,731	5,39,083	13,44,814
2025-26 (up to Nov 25)	3,47,069	2,42,617	5,89,686

(iii) Permanent Lok Adalats (Public Utility Services)

Years	Disposal of PLAs
2021-22	1,18,136
2022-23	1,71,138
2023-24	2,32,763
2024-25	2,37,980
2025-26 (up to Nov. 25)	1,68,808

(d) Part IA of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 *inter-alia* provides for the establishment of the Arbitration Council of India. The Arbitration Council of India is yet to be established.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 121
ANSWERED ON – 29/01/2026**

DECLINE IN CONVICTION RATE IN FAST-TRACK COURTS

✓121 # Shri Ramji Lal Suman:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the conviction rate in the country's fast-track courts, including those in Uttar Pradesh, has declined in 2024 as compared to 2023;
- (b) the details of conviction rate in fast-track courts, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for decline in the conviction rate; and
- (d) the details of shortage of human resources in fast-track courts, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for providing speedy justice are set up by the States/UTs in consultation with the respective High Courts, as per their requirements and availability of resources. In this regard, the 14th Finance Commission recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015–2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property-related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 879 FTCs are functional across 22 State/UTs as on 31.12.2025. Since Fast Track Courts are administered by the High Courts and funded by the States/UTs without any support from the Central government, the Department does not maintain data regarding conviction rate exclusively in FTCs.

However, it may be noted that the conviction rates depend on multiple inter-related factors beyond the institutional framework of FTCs. These factors include quality of investigation,

complexity of facts involved in the case, nature and quality of evidence and co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, legal representation, forensic support, witnesses and litigants. Therefore, conviction rates are not necessarily reflective of court performance and must be understood holistically taking into consideration all the verticals across the criminal justice system including police, forensic labs and lawyers. Courts are mandated to deliver justice in accordance with law, which may include acquittal of the accused.

(d): As regards the recruitment of judges/prosecutors and staff in courts, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts including the Fast Track Courts (FTCs) is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments and the concerned High Courts. 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 State/UT Government in consultation with the respective High Court frames the rules regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 122
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

Leg. II (LD)

IMPACT OF DELIMITATION EXERCISE

122 Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the potential impact of proposed delimitation exercise on the allocation of Lok Sabha seats to States with below-replacement-level fertility rates, particularly in the context of their population growth rates being below the national average;
- (b) if so, the details of such assessment, including any projections of seat redistribution based on the latest population data; and
- (c) the measures being considered to ensure that States with effective population control policies are not disproportionately disadvantaged in terms of political representation?

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 delimitation exercise is undertaken by the Delimitation Commission as per constitutional mandate. Presently, article 82 of the Constitution provides that upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted. Provided that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and in the Legislative Assembly in a State or Union territory.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 123
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

ESTABLISHING LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRES IN TRIBAL BELTS

JS(LAP)
✓123 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry supports the State of Odisha in establishing legal resource centres in tribal belts for dispute resolution under customary and statutory laws; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society including Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. In order to reach out to the citizens in every corner of the country including Odisha, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk level up to the Supreme Court.

NALSA has notified National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 which provides establishment of District Legal Services Clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending on the size of such villages, which is called the Village Legal Care and Support Centre. Accordingly, 132 Village Legal Care & Support Centres have been set

up by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) in Odisha to help the marginalised people including tribals to resolve their legal problems, whenever required. The details of persons visited and provided with assistance by Village Legal Care & Support Centres in Odisha during the last two years are as follows:

Year	No. of persons visited	No. of persons provided with assistance
2024	8,029	4,593
2025	7,638	5,644

As part of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, 04 National Lok Adalats (NLAs) have been organised in 2025, from Taluk Courts to High Court of Orissa on the dates scheduled by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). That apart, pursuant to the direction of Executive Chairman, OSLSA, a District Level Lok Adalat was also organised by the Odisha State Legal Services Authority on 27.7.2025 on the cases under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act. Further, 22 Permanent Lok Adalats are functional in Odisha to deal with cases related to Public Utility Services.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 124
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026

JS(LAP)

TRAINING OF PARA-LEGAL VOLUNTEERS IN ODISHA

✓ 124 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry intends to facilitate training of para-legal volunteers in Odisha to assist tribal populations in accessing legal remedies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

To enhance the capacities of PLVs, especially their skills and representation, NALSA has prepared an extensive training module namely "Module for Training of Para-Legal Volunteers", which covers all aspects necessary for training to the PLVs. This Module is intended to inform and sensitize the PLVs on the Constitutional vision of justice, basics of criminal law, labour laws, law

for juveniles and laws for protection of women and senior citizens. It lays emphasis on knowledge of procedure as well as social sensitivity, soft skills of behavior and communication skills which are essential for dealing with a diverse population.

Under the supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), PLVs undergo training programmes at a common place. In addition to orientation and induction trainings, periodical refresher training is also provided to the PLVs in order to enhance their skills from time to time. The Legal Services Authorities periodically assess the work of PLVs and assist them in identifying the deficits and to tackle the problems in the field. The DLSAs resolve their doubts and facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and upgradation of their skills as per the module. The exemplary services of PLVs are recognised and rewarded for providing the best services to the beneficiaries.

As on August, 2025, there are 2,456 PLVs available with Legal Services Authorities in the State of Odisha. During the last three years, Legal Services Authorities in the State of Odisha have conducted the following training programmes for PLVs: -

Year	No of Training Programme conducted
2023-24	53
2024-25	51
2025-26 (upto November, 2025)	54

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 125
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026**

ADR Cell (DOLA)

MEDIATION CASES

125. Shri Ashok Singh:

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

- (a) the number of civil and commercial disputes referred to mandatory pre-litigation mediation since the Act's implementation and the percentage of cases successfully settled;
- (b) whether Government has identified a critical shortage of trained and accredited mediators, particularly in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, to handle the influx of mandatory mediation cases; and
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure that "mandatory" mediation does not become an additional layer of delay (120–180 days) for litigants who are already facing a backlog of over 5.1 crore cases?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018, to provide *inter-alia* for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism under Section 12A. 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 details of commercial disputes settled through pre-institution mediation under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, since the amendment in the year 2018, are as follows:

Period	No. of applications received for mediation	No. of application where mediation remains non-starter	No. of application where parties reached for settlement
July, 2018 to March, 2019	3680	1660	25
2019-20	18080	14470	167
2020-21	18364	14014	186
2021-22	32335	28441	368
2022-23	46412	41898	1449
2023-24	51019	47185	1139
2024-25	59568	52730	877
2025-26(upto Sep 25)	47218	30353	643

(b) As on November 2025, the National Legal Service Authority has around 22,398 mediators across the country and in various States. Further, as per Section 3 (l) read with Section 42 of the Mediation Act, 2023, a mediation institute is a body or organization that *inter-alia* provides training, continuous education and certification of mediators.

(c) The Commercial Courts (Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement) Rules, 2018, provides for the manner and procedure of pre-litigation under Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015. Further, in terms of Rule 3 of the Commercial Courts (Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement) Rules, 2018, the mediation process is to be completed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of application for pre-institution mediation unless the period is extended for further two months with the consent of the applicant and the opposite party. The legislative framework is in place to facilitate time bound conclusion of PIMS mechanism under Section 12A of the Act.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 126
ANSWERED ON 29/01/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES IN RAJASTHAN

NM
JSCNMJR-I)

✓ 126 # SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the number of pending cases in the courts of Rajasthan is high;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether any special measures have been taken to fill vacant judicial posts in the courts;
- (d) whether the e-Courts project has been extended to the State; and
- (e) whether the number of Gram Nyayalayas are proposed to be increased?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The details of district-wise pending cases in the courts of Rajasthan as on 19.01.2026 are at **Annexure-I**.

(c): 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 the 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.

(d): Yes. The e-Courts project has been extended to the State of Rajasthan. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice, an eCourts project is under implementation in a phased manner. The project aims at Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of judiciary. The Phase - I (2011-2015), focused on basic computerization of the courts. The Phase II (2015-2023), focused primarily on providing citizen-centric services to litigants and lawyers. The ongoing Phase III (2023-2027) of the project aims at end-to-end digitisation of the courts, using the latest technology. Key achievements under the eCourts project in respect of Rajasthan are as under: -

- i. 1171 courts computerized in Rajasthan (as per NJDG portal).
- ii. 5,17,055 cases heard through video conferencing facilities available with the courts.
- iii. Approximately 1,21,538 cases e-filed across the courts of Rajasthan.
- iv. e-Payment facility is available across courts in Rajasthan.
- v. 19 e-Sewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) are functional in the courts.
- vi. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) is operational in the State of Rajasthan.
- vii. Rajasthan (Traffic Department) Virtual court received 2.70 lakhs traffic challan cases and realized online fine of Rs. 2.02 crore.
- viii. About 16.01 crore pages have been digitized across courts.
- ix. Rajasthan High Court has implemented Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).
- x. Two Justice Clocks are available in the premises of High Court of Rajasthan.

(e): In State of Rajasthan, all the 45 notified Gram Nyayalayas in 33 districts are operational. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, for the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Gram Nyayalaya by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, may, by notification, establish one or more Gram Nyayalayas for every Panchayat at intermediate level or a group of contiguous Panchayats at intermediate level in a district or where there is no Panchayat at intermediate level in any State, for a group of contiguous Gram Panchayats.

Annexure – I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 126 FOR ANSWER ON 29.01.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES IN RAJASTHAN'

District-wise Pendency of cases in Rajasthan as on 19.01.2026				SOURCE: NJDG
Sr No.	District	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Ajmer	25696	71266	96962
2	Alwar	33446	98973	132419
3	Balotra	2177	7818	9995
4	Banswara	2508	17081	19589
5	Baran	3964	26701	30665
6	Barmer	8046	32900	40946
7	Beawer	9654	27333	36987
8	Bharatpur	15722	51736	67458
9	Bhilwara	17007	63210	80217
10	Bikaner	14568	44241	58809
11	Bundi	6328	21723	28051
12	Chittorgarh	8925	38246	47171
13	Churu	8428	27760	36188
14	Dausa	7219	31012	38231
15	Deeg	4353	17601	21954
16	Dholpur	5470	21483	26953
17	Didwana Kuchaman	5359	15360	20719
18	Dungarpur	2161	12437	14598
19	Ganganagar	15486	55305	70791
20	Hanumangarh	11622	33570	45192
21	Jaipur District	18226	41035	59261
22	Jaipur Metro I	62564	296166	358730
23	Jaipur Metro II	35152	273920	309072
24	Jaisalmer	1223	10281	11504
25	Jalore	4514	19461	23975
26	Jhalawar	4048	31666	35714
27	Jhunjhunu	9519	32370	41889
28	Jodhpur District	4519	23222	27741
29	Jodhpur Metro	20960	94345	115305
30	Karauli	4021	21065	25086
31	Khairtal Tijara	7972	24312	32284
32	Kota	16763	86032	102795
33	Kotputli Behror	11200	22796	33996
34	Merta Nagaur	12363	35359	47722
35	Pali	16037	51654	67691
36	Phalodi	1121	6420	7541
37	Pratapgarh	1943	10939	12882
38	Rajsamand	8913	28270	37183
39	Salumber	696	7028	7724
40	Sawai Madhopur	8109	22697	30806
41	Sikar	17858	46919	64777

42	Sirohi	5454	19637	25091
43	Tonk	9613	30114	39727
44	Udaipur	17917	96535	114452
	Total	5,08,844	20,47,999	25,56,843

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

PENDENCY OF CASES

NM
JSCNMJR-I)

✓ 61. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the problem of pendency is particularly acute at the lower levels of judiciary where the majority of cases are filed and where the shortage of judges is most severe;
- (b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to address this issue; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2026 REGARDING
'PENDENCY OF CASES'

(a) to (c) Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. besides the shortage of judges. The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 19.01.2026, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1162 new Judges were appointed and 820 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. Further, 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 the 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.
- ii. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- iii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,461.28 crore has been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of Court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,683 (as on 31.12.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,029 (as on 31.12.2025), under this Scheme.
- iv. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. As on November, 2025, 618.36 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.89 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High

Courts. The number of eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 2059 across High Courts and District Courts.

- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, cases involving women, children, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 876 FTCs are functional across 21 States/UTs as on 30.11.2025. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.
- vii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, 774 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.11.2025, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. 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.
- x. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.
- xi. The Government launched the Tele-Law program 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. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 64
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026

JS(LAP)

VEER PARIVAR SAHAYATA YOJNA

✓64 # **SHRI BRIJ LAL:**

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

- (a) the objectives and scope of NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojna, 2025;
- (b) the number of legal service centres proposed or established at the State and district Sainik Welfare Board levels along with the status of their coverage in the States/Union territories;
- (c) the extent to which digital platforms, e-services, and priority-based grievance redressal mechanisms are being utilized under the scheme and the details of Inter-State coordination mechanism, particularly in the cases involving Multi-State jurisdictions; and
- (d) the details of monitoring, reporting and capacity-building measures adopted to ensure effective implementation and widespread reach of the scheme?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF

RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 64 FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026

REGARDING 'VEER PARIVAR SAHAYATA YOJNA' ASKED BY SHRI BRIJ LAL

- (a) The Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana (VPSY), 2025, launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), aims to provide accessible and effective legal services to serving defence personnel, ex-servicemen and their dependent family members who are eligible under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, in matters such as property disputes, welfare schemes, matrimonial disputes, civil disputes, and other legal matters. The Scheme is being implemented through Legal Services Clinics, particularly established at Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards in coordination with State and District Legal Services Authorities.
- (b) As on 31.12.2025, there are 31 Legal Services Clinics at Rajya Sainik Boards and 417 Legal Service Clinics at Zila Sainik Boards.
- (c) Under the provision of Clause 8 of the Scheme, digital platforms and e-Services of NALSA are used to ensure seamless accessibility and efficiency in providing legal services or assistance to the beneficiaries. The Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and Panel Lawyers of the Legal Services Clinics at the Zila and Rajya Sainik Boards: -
- (i) Identify and refer eligible cases, through SLSA/DLSA/TLSC, particularly family and matrimonial disputes, for structured online mediation by trained mediators empanelled by DLSAs.
 - (ii) Suitable civil, pension, property, or family-related cases are being identified and in districts with a high number of defence-related cases, dedicated slots or virtual rooms are being organised for defence personnel and ex-servicemen as part of the routine e-Lok Adalat framework.
 - (iii) Guide beneficiaries in applying for legal services or assistance through the online application portal/module-based app, where applicants can track their case status and access legal information.
 - (iv) Conduct awareness sessions to educate defence families on how to access and use digital legal assistance platforms.

The Member Secretary, SLSA act as a referral hub for Inter-State grievances, forwarding cases to other SLSAs where applicable. The Inter-State referral data is maintained as per the Reporting Format specified in the Scheme.

- (d) The implementation of the Scheme is monitored by NALSA through reports received from SLSAs as per the prescribed format. A structured coordination committee mechanism has been established at the National, State and District levels to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of welfare measures for the families of martyrs and ex-servicemen. This multi-tier coordination mechanism is intended to ensure timely delivery of assistance and effective inter-departmental coordination. As on 31.12.2025, 01 National, 12 State and 269 District Level coordination committees are functional.

Capacity-building is undertaken through regular training and sensitisation programmes for legal aid lawyers, Para-Legal Volunteers to ensure effective outreach and uniform implementation across States. As on 31.12.2025, 310 training programmes and 2141 awareness camps have been initiated by various clinics. As part of 77th Republic Day, SLSAs have undertaken focused awareness, outreach and grievance resolution drive under the Scheme.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 69
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

JS(LAP)

FREE LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

✓ 69 # SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:

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

- (a) the number of people benefited from free legal aid, legal awareness and literacy campaigns under NALSA and the outcomes thereof;
- (b) the effectiveness of special legal aid cells, fast-track courts and victim compensation schemes for women, SCs/STs, minorities and persons with disabilities;
- (c) the improvement that has occurred in access to justice through mobile legal aid clinics, legal aid camps and Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas; and
- (d) the number of people benefited in remote areas from tele-law, online consultations and digital platforms?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 69 FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2026
REGARDING 'FREE LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE' ASKED BY SHRI
PRADIP KUMAR VARMA**

- (a) The details of persons benefitted from free legal aid provided by legal services authorities under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November 2025) are as follows:-

Persons provided with Panel Advocates	Persons benefitted through Advice/Counselling	Persons benefitted through other services	Total
2,61,526	9,20,537	1,40,167	13,22,230

Details of Legal Awareness Programmes/Camps organised by Legal Services Authorities and number of persons benefitted during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November 2025) are as follows:

No of Programmes / Camps Organised	Number of Persons attended
3,67,292	2,69,23,685

- (b) & (c) Legal Services Clinics have been established across the country in many places like Colleges/Universities, Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB), Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Observation Homes, Villages, Community Centres, Jails etc. with an aim to facilitate access to the legal services for people who face geographical, social, and other barriers. These clinics are manned by Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers. The details of Legal Services Clinics functional across the country and number of persons provided legal assistance during the financial year 2025-26 (upto November, 2025) are as follows:-

Categories	Legal Services Clinics	Number of persons provided legal assistance
Law Colleges / Universities	872	18,654
Villages	5,479	3,45,604
Community Centres	833	94,377
Courts	1,109	1,28,347
Jails	1,145	3,66,292

JJBs/CWCs/ Observation Homes	538	46,758
For the people of North-East	45	421
Others	3,567	2,19,269
Total	13,588	12,19,722

Legal Services Authorities award compensation to the victims under Section 357A of Cr. P.C (now Section 396 of BNSS), as per the Victim Compensation Schemes prepared by the State Governments. These Schemes implement the concept of payment of compensation by the State to the victims of the crime including women, SCs/STs, minorities and persons with disabilities. During the financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto July, 2025), Rs. 4,84,67,37,631 and Rs. 1,54,02,87,605/- respectively has been awarded as compensation to the victims.

The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of Fast-Track Courts (FTCs) for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property-related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 879 FTCs are functional across 22 States/UTs as on 31.12.2025. In addition, pursuant to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019*, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Court, since October, 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 774 FTSCs, including 398 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 31.12.2025.

'Panchayat' being 'Local Government' is a State subject and part of State List of Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Panchayats are set up and operate through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts which vary from State to State, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Article 243G of the Constitution empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions, by law, for the devolution of power and responsibilities upon Panchayat at an appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified, with

respect to the preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice.

- (d) As on 31 December, 2025, 1,06,07,764 people across 776 districts (including 112 Aspirational districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks) have benefitted from the Tele-law online consultations and digital platforms in rural/remote areas.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 70
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

INTRODUCTION OF JUDICIAL STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL

JS(Apptts)

✓70. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to re-introduce the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in Parliament;
- (b) if so, the timeline proposed for its introduction; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not proceeding with the said legislation?

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) IN RESPECT
OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 FOR ANSWER ON 05/02/2026
REGARDING INTRODUCTION OF JUDICIAL STANDARDS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY BILL ASKED BY DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU**

(a) to (c): The Supreme Court of India, in its full Court meeting on 7th May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and (ii) "In-house procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life. A bill titled, "The Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010", was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2010. The Bill lapsed consequent to the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha.

As per the established "in-house procedure" for the Higher Judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints against the conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges. The complaints/representations received are forwarded to the Chief Justice of India or to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, as the case may be, for appropriate action.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 704
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

JUDGES TO POPULATION RATIO

NM
JSCNMJR-I)

✓704 Shri Prakash Chik Baraik:

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

- (a) the number of judges per ten lakh of population in the country, separately for the Supreme court, High Courts and Lower Judiciary, State-wise;
- (b) the number of judges per ten lakh as suggested by the Supreme Court;
- (c) the country-wise details of judges per ten lakh population; and
- (d) the details of top ten countries with highest judges to population ratio?

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) At present, the number of judges per ten lakh of population in the country works out to be approximately 22. In order to calculate the judge population ratio for per ten lakh population in a particular year, the Ministry of Law and Justice uses the criterion based on the population data as per Census 2011 (1210.85 million) and the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Court and District & Subordinate Courts in the year 2026. The number of judges per ten lakh of population for the Supreme court is 0.028; for the High Courts is 0.92; and for the Lower Judiciary, State-wise is placed at **Annexure**.

(b) The Supreme Court of India, in its judgment dated 02.01.2017 in *Imtiyaz Ahmed v. State of Uttar Pradesh* [(2017) 3 SCC 658], observed that in its judgment delivered on 21.03.2002 in *All India Judges' Assn. (3) v. Union of India*, while endorsing the views of the Law Commission in its 120th Report, it had directed that a judge-to-population ratio of fifty judges per million be achieved. Similar observations were made in cases such as *P. Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka* [(2002) 4 SCC 478] and *Brij Mohan Lal v. Union of India* [(2002) 5 SCC 1].

(c) and (d) The data regarding country-wise details of judges per ten lakh population and top ten countries with highest judges to population ratio is not maintained.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 704 FOR ANSWER ON 05.02.2026 REGARDING 'JUDGES TO POPULATION RATIO'

NUMBER OF JUDGES PER TEN LAKH POPULATION FOR LOWER JUDICIARY, STATE-WISE				
Sr No.	State/UT	Total population as per Census 2011	Total sanctioned strength of Judges in Lower Judiciary as per MIS portal	Judge to population ratio
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	12541302	339	27.03
2	LADAKH			
3	HIMACHAL PRADESH	6864602	188	27.39
4	PUNJAB	27743338	812	29.27
5	CHANDIGARH	1055450	30	28.42
6	UTTARAKHAND	10086292	298	29.55
7	HARYANA	25351462	781	30.81
8	NCT OF DELHI	16787941	897	53.43
9	RAJASTHAN	68548437	1699	24.79
10	UTTAR PRADESH	199812341	3700	18.52
11	BIHAR	104099452	2025	19.45
12	SIKKIM	610577	35	57.32
13	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1383727	53	38.30
14	NAGALAND	1978502	34	17.18
15	MANIPUR	2855794	62	21.71
16	MIZORAM	1097206	74	67.44
17	TRIPURA	3673917	133	36.20
18	MEGHALAYA	2966889	99	33.37
19	ASSAM	31205576	485	15.54
20	WEST BENGAL	91276115	1105	12.05
21	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	380581		
22	JHARKHAND	32988134	707	21.43
23	ODISHA	41974218	1043	24.85
24	CHHATTISGARH	25545198	663	25.95
25	MADHYA PRADESH	72626809	2028	27.92
26	GUJARAT	60439692	1720	28.46
27	DAMAN & DIU	243247	4	16.44
28	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	343709	3	8.73
29	MAHARASHTRA	112374333	2190	19.49
30	ANDHRA PRADESH	84580777	1203	14.22
31	TELANGANA			

32	KARNATAKA	61095297	1395	22.83
	GOA	1458545	50	34.28
34	LAKSHADWEEP	64473	4	62.04
35	KERALA	33406061	611	18.29
36	TAMIL NADU	72147030	1386	19.21
37	PUDUCHERRY	1247953	38	30.45

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 748
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

RECOGNITION OF LLB DEGREE

Impl. cell (D2A)

✓748 Shri Neeraj Shekhar:

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

- (a) whether the Bar Council of India had recognized LLB degrees through evening classes in Delhi University and some other law colleges in the country few years back;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of such LLB degree holders who have been enrolled as advocates in the country, State-wise;
- (d) the reasons for stoppage of evening classes for LLB;
- (e) whether such LLB degree holders have been debarred from practicing in courts; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The Bar Council of India (BCI) has informed that under the earlier Rules of Legal Education, 1989, the BCI had permitted and recognized evening LL.B. courses offered by certain universities and law colleges, including institutions in Delhi and some other States, subject to compliance with the then-prevailing standards. However, with effect from the academic year 2000–2001, the Bar Council of India, through the Rules of Legal Education, 1999 referred to that time as *Standards of Legal Education and Recognition of Degrees in Law (Rules)*, discontinued the recognition of evening law degree courses across all States.

(c): There is no data available/maintained who had acquired LLB degree through evening classes.

(d): The Bar Council of India has consistently maintained this position under its Rules of Legal Education, 2008, which mandate that LL.B. is a regular, full-time professional course requiring prescribed daily and weekly classroom hours, minimum attendance, and a fixed academic teaching window between 8.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. Accordingly, no State-wise recognition of evening, night-school, part-time, weekend, holiday, online or distance LL.B. courses exists or

has existed since 2000–2001, a position reiterated by the Bar Council of India through statutory rules, circulars.

(e) and (f): The LL.B. degree holders who had completed their law degree through the evening classes till the academic year 1999-2000 are entitled to be enrolled as an advocate, as stated above and not thereafter.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 749
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

IMPACT OF FAST TRACK COURTS

JS(5-II)
✓749. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of fast track courts in disposal of criminal cases in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fast track court system has reduced the pendency of cases in lower judiciary; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set up by the States/UTs in consultation with the respective High Courts, as per their requirements and availability of resources. In this regard, the 14th Finance Commission recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015–2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property-related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 880 FTCs are functional across 22 State/UTs as on 31.12.2025. No central assistance is being provided for setting up of these Fast Track Courts.

Further, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts was launched in October, 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the latest extension up to 31st March 2026, for establishment of 790 courts.

The impact of the FTSC Scheme has been assessed through third-party evaluations conducted during the extensions of the Scheme. The National Productivity Council conducted a third-party evaluation in 2021, which recommended continuation of the Scheme. Subsequently, the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) undertook an evaluation in 2023 and, inter-alia, recommended continuation of the Scheme, considering its positive role in expeditious disposal of cases relating to women and children. A third-party evaluation has been recently conducted by NITI Aayog through M/s KPMG Advisory Services Private Limited, which has also recommended continuation of the FTSC Scheme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, noting its effectiveness in achieving its core objectives of speedy disposal of cases relating to women and children, reduction of pendency, and alignment with national priorities on justice delivery and women's safety.

Regarding the impact of these Courts in reduction of pendency of cases, as per information received from the High Courts, the FTCs have disposed of 40,26,982 cases during the last 3 years, i.e. 2023, 2024 and 2025. The year-wise and State-wise details are placed at **Annexure-I**. As per information received from the High Courts, the FTSCs have disposed of 2,28,414 cases during the last 3 years. The year-wise and State-wise details are placed at **Annexure-II**.

State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) as on 31.12.2025

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Functional FTCs as on 31.12.2025	Total Disposal in 2023	Total Disposal in 2024	Total Disposal in 2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	2385	4601	3257
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	16	8265	7385	6346
5	Bihar	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	3788	4635	5378
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	26	1688	3276	4047
10	Goa	4	7722	901	1574
11	Gujarat	54	4787	5625	4278
12	Haryana	6	474	358	353
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	160	212	182
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8	83	106	203
15	Jharkhand	39	2107	2531	2442
16	Karnataka	0	0	0	0
17	Kerala	16	0	0	0
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
21	Maharashtra	102	164182	133818	293807
22	Manipur	6	155	89	94
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	2	320	393	365
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0	0	0
27	Puducherry	1	0	2	874
28	Punjab	7	291	247	151
29	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0
30	Sikkim	2	10	14	7
31	Tamil Nadu	73	25295	34767	27734
32	Telangana	0	0	0	0
33	Tripura	2	242	224	308
34	Uttar Pradesh	373	1200766	953274	954136
35	Uttarakhand	4	386	485	343
36	West Bengal	88	98087	21942	25025
	TOTAL	880	1521193	1174885	1330904

Source: As per data provided by the High Courts.

**State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) as on
31.12.2025**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Functional FTSCs as on 31.12.2025	Total Disposal in 2023	Total Disposal in 2024	Total Disposal in 2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	2368	2138	2701
2	Assam	17	2300	2685	2393
3	Bihar	54	4464	4556	5836
4	Chandigarh	1	128	73	131
5	Chhattisgarh	15	1450	1365	1410
6	Delhi	16	756	833	819
7	Goa	1	23	51	49
8	Gujarat	35	4275	4228	3790
9	Haryana	18	2094	1911	1779
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	299	432	306
11	J&K	4	41	112	102
12	Jharkhand*	0	2189	2313	979
13	Karnataka	30	3713	3553	3260
14	Kerala	55	7044	6324	4998
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	8130	6152	5374
16	Maharashtra	37	6811	3716	1009
17	Manipur	2	48	45	47
18	Meghalaya	5	135	265	164
19	Mizoram	3	60	73	62
20	Nagaland	1	6	11	12
21	Odisha	44	5153	5747	5066
22	Puducherry	1	44	78	72
23	Punjab	12	1502	1127	1277
24	Rajasthan	45	4213	4288	4415
25	Tamil Nadu	20	1861	2670	2211
26	Telangana	36	1720	2499	2567
27	Tripura	3	163	89	109
28	Uttarakhand	4	383	437	290
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	14898	27640	14848
30	West Bengal	8	48	184	424
	TOTAL	774	76319	85595	66500

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

Source: As per data provided by the High Courts.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 751
ANSWERED ON-05/02/2026**

JSC(App'ts)

SOCIAL DIVERSITY IN JUDICIARY

✓ 51. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

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

- (a) the present position regarding social diversity in judiciary in the background of recent SC decision to implement reservation in the staff appointments;
- (b) whether Government has taken up the issue of reservation in appointments of judges in SC and HCs in the light of remarks by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and if so, the action taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of appointment of judges to HCs since 2021 from OBC castes?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, 80 Judges belonging to OBC category have been appointed since 01.01.2021 till 30.01.2026.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India,

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

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 752
ANSWERED ON 5/02/2026**

INSTITUTIONAL ARBITRATION AND IIAC ADOPTION

ADR CELL (DOLA)
✓ 752 Shri Sujeet Kumar:

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

- (a) the key initiatives undertaken to strengthen and promote institutional arbitration since June, 2025;
- (b) the number of CPSEs/PSUs that adopted IIAC as their designated arbitral institution in financial year 2024-25; and
- (c) the steps planned to ensure uniform application of the IIAC (Conduct of Arbitration) Regulations, 2023, across all new PSU contracts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The Government of India has taken various initiatives to promote and strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms including institutional arbitration. To enable preferred recourse to institutional arbitration, the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, has been enacted leading to the establishment of the India International Arbitration Centre thereby creating an independent and autonomous body for facilitating institutional arbitration. The Centre since its establishment, has conducted workshops, conferences and seminars relating to domestic and international arbitrations, for awareness and training and CPSEs/PSUs have participated in it.

In the month of June 2025, a conference was organised by the Department of Legal Affairs in collaboration with India International Arbitration Centre and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, a Central Public Sector Enterprise, to raise awareness about the benefits of institutional arbitration among Central Public Sector Enterprises. The Conference served as a dynamic platform for dialogue on institutional arbitration and the importance of adopting institutional arbitration under the aegis of India International Arbitration Centre.

In September, 2025, India International Arbitration Centre hosted an Oxford-Style Debate at the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on the topic of Institutional Arbitration and the debate witnessed compelling arguments led by eminent speakers. Following this, in the month of September 2025, a webinar on the theme Institutional Arbitration was also organised by the India International Arbitration Centre, in collaboration with Federation of Indian Exports Organisation which brought together the exporters to understand the importance of institutional arbitration in resolving commercial disputes.

India International Arbitration Centre has also launched the inaugural edition of its annual magazine, for dissemination of knowledge of law and procedures on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The magazine contains articles from amongst others, notable national and international arbitration practitioners.

(b) & (c) In the financial year 2024-25, certain Central Public Sector Enterprises being Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Gas Authority of India Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, have adopted India International Arbitration Centre as the designated arbitral institution in their dispute resolution clauses.

Further, India International Arbitration Centre continues to take steps and organize webinars and conferences for disseminating the advantages of adoption of India International Arbitration Centre model arbitration clause by parties including CPSEs/PSUs, for conduct of arbitration under the uniform and efficient procedure envisaged in the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Arbitration), Regulations, 2023.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 753
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026

JS(LAP)

BENEFICIARIES UNDER LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES ACT

✓ 53 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) the number of beneficiaries of legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, specifically Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries under the Act who are victims of trafficking or bonded labour during the same period, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of beneficiary es during the same period who are women, children, persons with mental illness or disabilities and those affected by disasters or caste/ethnic violence, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the number of beneficiaries during the same period who are among industrial workmen and persons in custody, including those in juvenile, protective or mental health institutions, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): State/UT and category-wise details of number of persons who got benefitted through free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act during the last five financial years i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (upto November, 2025) are at Annexure-A1, A2, A3, A4 and A5 respectively.

Annexure - A1

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 753 for answer on 05.02.2026 regarding-- Beneficiaries under Legal Services Authorities Act.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2021-2022.

S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In Custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	22	0	22	0	7	0	0	0	2	26	79
2	Andhra Pradesh	133	43	725	26	1,692	14	1	1	3	0	684	3,049	6,371
3	Arunachal Pradesh	242	821	740	114	676	0	0	0	1	10	28	25	2,657
4	Assam	7,822	14,017	10,352	2,478	6,761	2,033	1,961	0	71	7,359	23,381	34,019	1,10,254
5	Bihar	15,335	517	18,372	7,525	30,190	584	500	68	0	4,018	63,666	15,48,383	16,89,158
6	Chandigarh	17	0	744	131	473	8	0	0	0	0	326	82	1,781
7	Chhattisgarh	3,753	8,459	6,821	663	9,309	18	177	0	0	256	4,902	8,036	42,394
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	2	12	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	27
	Daman & Diu	1	0	13	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
9	Delhi	723	7	16,496	2,857	28,435	92	428	1	1	0	7,366	22,649	79,055
10	Goa	3	3	495	4	219	48	18	0	0	0	309	2	1,101
11	Gujarat	1,354	773	6,074	259	6,720	221	69	0	1	0	3,755	2,727	21,953
12	Haryana	730	0	5,516	206	12,789	53	8	4	0	0	2,420	1,534	23,260
13	Himachal Pradesh	351	69	2,510	63	387	49	57	1	0	3	772	544	4,806

14	Jammu & Kashmir	211	331	2,474	119	503	664	236	15	0	12	2,100	2,205	8,870
15	Jharkhand	15,346	28,628	63,113	11,570	11,039	1,154	6,281	110	5,000	2,375	46,194	4,58,671	6,49,481
16	Karnataka	5,835	5,767	5,975	315	3,313	84	34	6	0	0	1,200	10,265	32,794
17	Kerala	1,037	253	7,261	643	3,681	116	59	13	4	15	3,130	683	16,895
18	Ladakh	48	1,479	325	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	513	2,408
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	8,19,053	10,96,264	3,16,946	1,37,320	55,307	291	29	10	0	508	4,80,489	4,37,583	33,43,800
21	Maharashtra	1,656	785	9,366	359	4,507	108	21	2	5	25	4,105	1,656	22,595
22	Manipur	1,558	7,212	6,648	1,174	556	195	118	20	43	2,622	1,201	1,304	22,651
23	Meghalaya	21	698	447	204	777	15	0	67	5	2	59	51	2,346
24	Mizoram	104	1,700	414	43	832	0	0	0	0	0	17	91	3,201
25	Nagaland	471	3,934	1,763	649	352	163	0	0	0	6	396	16	7,750
26	Odisha	1,187	1,095	2,299	23	2,293	138	12	16	3	0	1,127	656	8,849
27	Puducherry	30	3	161	135	343	0	0	130	0	0	61	21	884
28	Punjab	2,429	7	8,184	254	14,717	236	41	1	0	0	5,976	4,559	36,404
29	Rajasthan	144	51	897	5,070	6,770	13	0	0	0	0	472	416	13,833
30	Sikkim	29	100	425	26	280	1	0	0	0	0	67	58	986
31	Tamil Nadu	1,281	299	7,279	270	12,183	124	35	42	1	40	5,887	10,740	38,181
32	Telangana	89	33	1,244	46	1,997	2	0	0	0	0	1,426	1,875	6,712
33	Tripura	246	154	1,490	36	228	3	0	0	0	0	390	124	2,671
34	Uttar Pradesh	5,983	6	27,452	98	8,110	91	169	0	3	3	4,675	86,039	1,32,629
35	Uttarakhand	142	22	1,060	37	1,845	25	12	0	0	38	471	123	3,775
36	West Bengal	2,066	693	7,093	1,128	9,349	212	45	13	15	2	7,933	466	29,015
	Total	8,89,431	11,74,225	5,41,208	1,73,888	2,36,665	6,755	10,320	520	5,156	17,294	6,74,987	26,39,194	63,69,643

Annexure - A2

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 753 for answer on 05.02.2026 regarding- Beneficiaries under Legal Services Authorities Act.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2022-2023														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0	45	0	26	1	1	0	0	0	2	58	134
2	Andhra Pradesh	253	87	1,241	89	1,989	29	1	4	339	0	1,429	4,012	9,473
3	Arunachal Pradesh	536	1,923	1,431	13	1,582	3	0	0	3	0	43	25	5,559
4	Assam	1,250	2,310	4,733	720	9,556	405	998	2	27	555	2,965	14,814	38,335
5	Bihar	12,281	1,727	21,011	8,816	37,872	206	119	0	1	660	2,280	1,24,836	2,09,809
6	Chandigarh	12	0	1,135	149	654	16	0	1	0	0	384	302	2,653
7	Chhattisgarh	4,362	8,960	5,959	416	11,693	18	24	2	5	0	5,253	7,414	44,106
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	18	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	28
	Daman & Diu	4	2	9	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	24
9	Delhi	1,709	40	24,106	568	29,370	246	2,198	5	8	1	12,850	25,332	96,433
10	Goa	9	56	898	7	281	61	4	0	0	0	712	13	2,041
11	Gujarat	2,989	1,625	9,674	498	7,882	67	59	6	2	15	6,651	2,954	32,422
12	Haryana	819	0	6,915	314	30,973	125	3	0	0	0	2,543	1,406	43,098
13	Himachal Pradesh	551	109	3,084	208	650	63	15	1	0	0	877	440	5,998
14	Jammu & Kashmir	571	362	2,630	202	722	324	58	8	0	6	1,186	1,923	7,992
15	Jharkhand	13,529	15,875	24,960	6,567	9,542	440	3,528	46	2	83	657	69,988	1,45,217
16	Karnataka	5,981	3,559	10,291	469	7,102	435	235	17	2	0	2,469	15,103	45,663

17	Kerala	877	277	11,513	1,435	3,961	239	24	9	17	246	3,205	1,615	23,418
18	Ladakh	18	420	180	12	2	14	32	0	0	17	13	3	711
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	23,789	17,704	38,843	22,379	53,796	934	979	183	0	108	12,942	20,264	1,91,921
21	Maharashtra	2,602	990	14,798	540	8,573	211	277	2	255	220	5,746	2,449	36,663
22	Manipur	1,300	11,021	8,732	1,908	1,161	246	139	17	0	218	1,290	897	26,929
23	Meghalaya	22	1,250	356	73	916	3	0	3	0	1	83	62	2,769
24	Mizoram	14	2,493	800	0	1,147	0	0	0	109	24	95	356	5,038
25	Nagaland	511	3,736	1,492	551	620	84	0	0	0	0	396	0	7,390
26	Odisha	1,318	1,003	3,081	29	4,165	57	1	31	0	0	1,177	1,018	11,880
27	Puducherry	30	1	216	278	135	9	0	0	0	2	95	22	788
28	Punjab	4,874	42	14,075	354	20,213	330	248	31	15	25	10,286	5,955	56,448
29	Rajasthan	267	117	1,327	7,370	3,528	24	17	2	0	0	738	82	13,472
30	Sikkim	25	110	472	19	376	1	0	0	0	0	98	26	1,127
31	Tamil Nadu	2,533	379	11,878	272	9,501	152	133	31	0	6	7,641	17,044	49,570
32	Telangana	138	51	1,784	247	5,283	0	0	0	0	0	2,394	2,718	12,615
33	Tripura	448	563	2,379	143	344	1	0	0	0	0	784	393	5,055
34	Uttar Pradesh	6,764	2	2,238	935	7,838	6	10	1	0	26	4,377	2,693	24,890
35	Uttarakhand	150	20	1,266	144	2,961	54	10	0	0	0	626	155	5,386
36	West Bengal	3,258	1,742	12,017	1,261	15,545	246	95	41	21	6	14,239	1,243	49,714
	Total	93,796	78,556	2,45,587	56,986	2,89,969	5,050	9,215	443	806	2,219	1,06,527	3,25,615	12,14,769

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 753 for answer on 05.02.2026 regarding- Beneficiaries under Legal Services Authorities Act.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2023-2024														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	42	0	64	8	0	0	0	0	14	92	220
2	Andhra Pradesh	318	75	983	61	2,220	24	1	1	0	0	1,128	3,454	8,265
3	Arunachal Pradesh	628	2,006	1,453	84	1,440	4	17	0	0	0	41	23	5,696
4	Assam	1,254	3,098	6,168	2,366	17,711	188	1,286	1	2	813	8,922	21,940	63,749
5	Bihar	7,306	1,270	15,307	6,889	34,778	163	429	21	0	549	2,575	82,126	1,51,413
6	Chandigarh	15	0	1,355	238	418	8	0	1	0	0	692	95	2,822
7	Chhattisgarh	6,884	12,701	9,621	544	14,601	10	12	1	5	21	8,489	9,275	62,164
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	6	21	0	15	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	55
	Daman & Diu	4	2	14	1	7	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	34
9	Delhi	1,705	16	22,631	2,761	24,794	342	1,538	13	912	32,940	12,984	21,246	1,21,882
10	Goa	6	4	790	4	232	38	0	0	0	0	480	4	1,558
11	Gujarat	3,825	2,716	11,560	565	10,184	123	101	0	3	62	7,981	3,449	40,569
12	Haryana	1,568	0	7,818	468	35,367	137	7	3	0	26,611	3,151	1,733	76,863
13	Himachal Pradesh	547	143	3,195	90	725	81	0	8	13	553	897	1,094	7,346
14	Jammu & Kashmir	757	398	4,082	510	1,184	145	1	3	0	32	2,759	1,525	11,396
15	Jharkhand	21,387	27,451	47,687	14,730	19,352	770	5,266	664	34	59	2,534	1,29,369	2,69,303
16	Karnataka	6,751	3,876	11,955	932	8,647	340	314	39	2	0	3,210	17,340	53,406
17	Kerala	2,789	441	15,812	3,899	5,653	225	137	54	85	49	5,822	1,532	36,498

18	Ladakh	29	333	105	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	505
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	30,163	25,563	41,291	19,955	58,171	1,444	1,110	0	1	5	20,759	27,048	2,25,510
21	Maharashtra	2,298	635	17,566	964	20,687	287	158	52	389	17	5,823	4,880	53,756
22	Manipur	751	8,585	7,621	2,487	282	129	17	26	686	38,304	2,881	866	62,635
23	Meghalaya	27	716	490	68	865	0	0	0	0	3	81	121	2,371
24	Mizoram	4	2,528	537	62	599	218	0	0	0	0	62	791	4,801
25	Nagaland	373	2,342	557	137	628	56	0	0	0	0	510	0	4,603
26	Odisha	1,375	1,073	3,264	39	4,473	6,020	15	100	11	4	1,967	948	19,289
27	Puducherry	26	0	181	256	71	0	1	0	0	0	49	37	621
28	Punjab	5,287	28	13,714	419	24,764	243	101	6	1	447	9,968	5,383	60,361
29	Rajasthan	333	132	1,337	6,274	11,000	19	36	0	0	0	938	221	20,290
30	Sikkim	32	118	553	18	218	2	0	0	0	0	127	6	1,074
31	Tamil Nadu	1,881	782	10,962	178	8,989	135	90	6	11	32	7,186	14,928	45,180
32	Telangana	131	66	2,066	334	4,258	12	0	0	0	0	3,198	3,128	13,193
33	Tripura	795	831	3,732	286	1,115	41	0	38	24	0	1,610	1,492	9,964
34	Uttar Pradesh	2,776	83	2,487	1,654	7,328	231	89	251	0	1	4,964	9,215	29,079
35	Uttarakhand	626	215	2,358	846	14,701	47	49	2	0	32	1,570	893	21,339
36	West Bengal	5,020	2,590	14,423	1,404	18,383	101	111	18	69	7	18,516	1,712	62,354
	Total	1,07,673	1,00,823	2,83,738	69,526	3,53,924	11,591	10,899	1,308	2,248	1,00,541	1,41,892	3,66,001	15,50,164

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 753 for answer on 05.02.2026 regarding- Beneficiaries under Legal Services Authorities Act.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2024-2025.														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	120	20	3	1	42	0	0	0	28	127	341
2	Andhra Pradesh	234	47	1,162	107	3,289	8	1	3	0	0	1,437	4,978	11,266
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,658	3,946	1,979	237	1,330	8	30	2	1	0	33	12	9,236
4	Assam	1,536	6,183	9,000	3,130	25,489	276	1,464	122	2	8	12,126	23,358	82,694
5	Bihar	4,673	1,399	10,374	6,550	31,677	162	585	48	0	618	2,647	25,772	84,505
6	Chandigarh	30	0	1,330	106	780	7	0	0	0	0	667	31	2,951
7	Chhattisgarh	10,815	14,336	12,068	607	21,610	109	0	6	0	4	11,868	9,451	80,874
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	4	28	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	45
	Daman & Diu	10	10	39	4	24	3	12	1	1	1	14	0	119
9	Delhi	1,652	163	19,060	2,942	18,630	336	955	7	510	0	10,869	21,402	76,526
10	Goa	17	20	892	14	314	15	0	0	0	0	569	48	1,889
11	Gujarat	3,882	8,271	12,828	1,404	10,862	173	83	0	0	8	7,999	4,957	50,467
12	Haryana	1,689	0	7,766	572	66,229	65	7	2	0	0	3,936	1,928	82,194
13	Himachal Pradesh	545	88	3,159	112	703	86	8	1	0	3	835	682	6,222
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,269	573	5,592	1,730	1,299	705	1	5	1	40	6,159	1,228	18,602
15	Jharkhand	41,537	42,987	72,003	30,572	33,281	3,560	3,703	194	78	173	5,741	94,536	3,28,365
16	Karnataka	6,051	3,329	12,167	790	8,972	254	191	32	9	9	7,659	11,782	51,245
17	Kerala	1,362	724	12,741	2,330	3,473	176	85	31	73	37	3,794	1,745	26,571

18	Ladakh	0	80	192	9	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	324
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	22,764	23,211	35,058	18,240	93,264	669	2,908	0	0	241	15,748	20,906	2,33,009
21	Maharashtra	3,351	1,620	20,167	1,230	20,535	374	240	21	2	36	6,248	5,630	59,454
22	Manipur	346	6,989	7,697	1,504	498	159	48	19	0	78,868	2,433	501	99,062
23	Meghalaya	20	710	544	86	877	1	0	11	6	0	233	266	2,754
24	Mizoram	26	2,145	696	20	676	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	3,713
25	Nagaland	608	2,365	604	432	499	52	0	0	0	0	452	0	5,012
26	Odisha	1,609	1,111	3,957	221	11,536	179	5	40	7	468	2,027	974	22,134
27	Puducherry	31	0	155	240	100	0	0	0	0	0	53	37	616
28	Punjab	5,516	2	14,762	526	33,615	86	38	0	0	0	9,879	1,089	65,513
29	Rajasthan	333	103	1,812	5,755	13,064	27	2	1	0	0	1,109	10	22,216
30	Sikkim	18	118	464	25	167	1	0	0	0	0	103	5	901
31	Tamil Nadu	2,214	357	12,479	323	12,088	201	197	15	0	59	11,110	13,485	52,528
32	Telangana	323	189	2,586	158	5,635	31	0	0	0	0	3,053	4,046	16,021
33	Tripura	829	621	3,348	192	1,588	61	36	115	0	1,460	1,244	809	10,303
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,799	5	2,091	616	6,979	176	32	107	0	0	5,315	5,612	22,732
35	Uttarakhand	1,974	704	4,174	2,332	19,420	204	378	8	47	8	2,922	2,037	34,208
36	West Bengal	10,680	6,029	23,057	4,394	24,398	148	1,722	53	56	124	19,523	2,730	92,914
	Total	1,29,402	1,28,440	3,16,151	87,530	4,72,954	8,313	12,778	844	793	82,165	1,57,833	2,60,324	16,57,527

Annexure - A5

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 753 for answer on 05.02.2026 regarding— Beneficiaries under Legal Services Authorities Act.

Statement showing the number of persons benefitted through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the year 2025-2026 (upto November, 2025).														
S.No.	Name of the State/UT Authority	Categories of Persons availing Legal Aid												Total
		SC	ST	Women	Children	In custody	Persons with Disability	Industrial Workmen	Transgender	Victim of Trafficking in Human beings or Begar	Victims of Mass Disaster Violence, Flood, Draught, Earthquake and Industrial Disaster	General (whose annual income does not exceed the prescribed limit)	Others	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	78	24	37	0	6	0	0	0	27	106	278
2	Andhra Pradesh	180	28	1,221	100	2,622	13	0	0	0	0	1,510	3,395	9,069
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,171	2,596	1,311	119	752	40	99	0	1	1	37	569	6,696
4	Assam	1,838	3,698	6,216	3,046	20,034	77	2,371	16	50	0	9,652	19,569	66,567
5	Bihar	2,489	727	6,908	5,743	20,819	105	570	24	0	625	1,916	11,407	51,333
6	Chandigarh	6	2	912	65	584	4	0	0	0	0	602	27	2,202
7	Chhattisgarh	7,863	9,327	7,877	620	15,449	14	0	0	0	1	7,320	7,076	55,547
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	50	0	8	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	61
	Daman & Diu	4	4	39	3	14	0	15	0	0	0	10	3	92
9	Delhi	1,118	41	13,098	2,097	13,713	224	233	7	1	0	6,494	11,896	48,922
10	Goa	14	31	1,261	3	208	12	0	0	0	0	796	34	2,359
11	Gujarat	4,117	9,021	13,368	2,991	10,303	167	18	0	0	29	7,389	12,765	60,168
12	Haryana	1,182	2	7,149	644	70,890	161	27	1	0	0	3,758	2,044	85,858
13	Himachal Pradesh	405	62	2,138	73	489	51	4	0	233	43	633	311	4,442
14	Jammu & Kashmir	1,323	1,151	4,292	2,109	2,427	250	9	1	0	620	3,432	1,352	16,966
15	Jharkhand	34,946	36,321	78,886	33,453	23,046	2,832	2,366	91	11	1	6,022	77,423	2,95,398
16	Karnataka	4,414	2,489	9,790	529	8,254	98	132	76	1	5	5,288	10,013	41,089
17	Kerala	931	418	11,459	1,025	4,222	95	223	6	3	0	3,369	2,424	24,175

18	Ladakh	0	81	77	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181
19	Lakshadweep	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	11,286	12,229	34,095	18,939	58,602	286	1,912	0	0	0	11,787	16,668	1,65,804
21	Maharashtra	2,024	748	12,954	1,803	13,121	904	190	29	72	66	4,621	4,403	40,935
22	Manipur	266	4,665	6,228	1,564	622	216	99	18	0	38,020	1,523	1,522	54,743
23	Meghalaya	19	1,077	427	188	431	0	0	0	0	5	133	1,098	3,378
24	Mizoram	2	1,508	537	32	58	0	0	0	15	0	35	240	2,427
25	Nagaland	1,166	2,343	1,012	1,389	375	224	0	0	0	0	909	0	7,418
26	Odisha	981	712	2,802	83	5,837	74	8	4	6	14	1,221	544	12,286
27	Puducherry	22	0	101	101	84	0	0	0	0	0	37	17	362
28	Punjab	4,906	5	10,561	525	28,290	1,022	29	6	0	0	8,200	1,493	55,037
29	Rajasthan	322	83	1,816	4,375	11,216	31	3	0	0	0	1,580	28	19,454
30	Sikkim	16	78	442	22	128	7	0	0	0	0	115	6	814
31	Tamil Nadu	1,406	274	8,533	399	9,336	117	60	18	3	2	8,359	9,252	37,759
32	Telangana	326	190	1,898	370	5,303	11	0	0	0	0	2,079	3,732	13,909
33	Tripura	756	688	2,246	197	1,012	34	0	36	0	0	748	2,226	7,943
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,571	189	2,797	1,230	6,330	495	44	349	0	0	3,656	4,200	20,861
35	Uttarakhand	1,572	805	4,918	3,189	17,615	251	679	4	0	0	3,289	3,011	35,333
36	West Bengal	7,292	3,099	17,171	3,188	21,253	490	557	40	49	48	14,509	4,654	72,350
	Total	95,939	94,701	2,74,668	90,238	3,73,507	8,305	9,657	726	445	39,480	1,21,056	2,13,508	13,22,230

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 754
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

JS(e-corts)

VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITY IN FAMILY COURTS

✓ 754. Shri S Niranjan Reddy:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the availability and adequacy of video-conferencing (VC) infrastructure in family courts across States and Union Territories, including dedicated VC rooms, secure platforms, trained staff and connectivity;
- (b) the State/UT-wise status of family courts equipped with functional VC facilities and the frequency of their use for hearings, mediation and counselling;
- (c) whether Government recognizes that VC infrastructure would help mitigate taxing nature of in-person family court proceedings; and
- (d) the steps taken for VC infrastructure, ensure privacy and data security and issue uniform guidelines to promote effective use of virtual and hybrid hearings in family courts?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State/UT Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith. Under Section 3(1)(a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State/UT Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State/UT comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States/UTs, the family courts may also be set up if the State/UT Governments deem it necessary.

For providing digital infrastructure in all the courts including the Family Courts across the country, the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India is implementing eCourts Project

in coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Under Phase III (2023- 2027) of this project, Rs. 228.48 crore have been earmarked for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of video conferencing in various establishments, including courts, jail and hospitals based on size of establishment. However, the utilization of VC facilities for hearings, mediation and counselling in Family Courts, is subject of judicial discretion under the administrative control of the respective High Courts.

Video conferencing facilities have been enabled in 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 jails across the country. Total 3.93 crore (2,95,33,143 in District & Subordinate courts and 97,89,552 in High Courts) case hearings through Video Conferencing have been conducted till 31.12.2025. The numbers of cases dealt with (virtual hearing) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts are at **Annexure-I**. These numbers include the cases dealt with in the Family Courts also. However, State/UT-wise data regarding usage of video conferencing facilities in Family Courts is not maintained separately.

‘Model Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts’ approved by the Hon’ble Supreme Court have been implemented in all High Courts and District Courts. In addition, Nyaya Shruti app has been launched in 2024 under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), to facilitate virtual appearances and testimonies of accused persons, witnesses, police officials, prosecutors, scientific experts, prisoners etc. through video conferencing, saving both time and resources while expediting case resolutions. For effective implementation and integration of Nyaya Shruti with other pillars of ICJS, 20 High Courts have already notified the Nyaya Shruti Rules.

Virtual hearings serve a significant purpose in ensuring access to justice. Using video conferencing, the lawyers and litigants may appear before the court from any location, thereby, easing the burden associated with physical appearances in court proceedings and saving considerable time and money, and benefitting underprivileged litigants and working professionals. Further, the lawyers may attend hearings at multiple locations at short notice and witnesses may be produced from safe locations.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 754 FOR ANSWER ON 05/02/2026 REGARDING VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITY IN FAMILY COURTS

Number of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts:

S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	249060	6673818	6922878
2	Andhra Pradesh	421307	1457401	1878708
3	Bombay	94493	310408	404901
4	Calcutta	181591	185189	366780
5	Chhattisgarh	105175	459698	564873
6	Delhi	322201	7503131	7825332
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	3574	8779	12353
8	Gauhati – Assam	267767	547962	815729
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	4294	13268	17562
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	1477	1278	2755
11	Gujarat	420087	234667	654754
12	Himachal Pradesh	186350	202660	389010
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	265337	598259	863596
14	Jharkhand	225235	745304	970539
15	Karnataka	1278460	192285	1470745
16	Kerala	280384	693555	973939
17	Madhya Pradesh	697374	1172912	1870286
18	Madras	1531620	479195	2010815
19	Manipur	55160	18811	73971
20	Meghalaya	6930	77483	84413

21	Orissa	359593	366450	726043
22	Patna	278212	3275264	3553476
23	Punjab & Haryana	653089	3734523	4387612
24	Rajasthan	254597	266506	521103
25	Sikkim	926	17890	18816
26	Telangana	1531472	201818	1733290
27	Tripura	22535	42737	65272
28	Uttarakhand	91252	51892	143144
	Total	9789552	29533143	39322695

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 755
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

Judicial Section
(DoLA)

HIGH EXPENDITURE ON LITIGATION

✓ 755 Shri S Niranjana Reddy:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of number of cases that are pending in courts across States with the UOI as a litigant, involving Ministries of Finance, Defence, Railways and Labour & Employment.
- (b) whether Government's annual litigation expenditure has increased from Rs. 26.64 crore in 2014-15 to 66.57 crore in 2023-24;
- (c) whether the Department of Legal Affairs has proposed meetings with Ministries to identify the reasons for litigation and pendency; and
- (d) the measures taken to reduce litigation, improve inter-ministerial coordination and contain litigation costs of the Government?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b) The data relating to cases pending in Courts involving Ministries of Finance, Defence, Railways and Labour & Employment are as under: -

PENDING COURT CASES ON LIMBS AS ON DATE 29-01-2026		
S. N.	MINISTRY	PENDING CASES
1	FINANCE	204765
2	DEFENCE	95498
3	INDIAN RAILWAYS	119142
4	LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT	77005
TOTAL		496410

Further, as per the available data, the annual litigation expenditure of the Government for the year 2014-15 was ₹ 26.64 crore and for the year 2023-24 was ₹ 66.57 crore.

(c) and (d) The Department of Legal Affairs on 04.04.2025 has issued to all Ministries/Departments 'Directives for the Efficient & Effective Management of Litigation by Government of India'. The objective of the Directives is to streamline the administrative steps involved in the conduct of litigation and for strengthening better coordination for timely outcomes.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 756
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ODISHA

JSC(A2T)

✓756 SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to improve access to formal justice delivery in Odisha, particularly in tribal and rural areas, and;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to strengthen district courts, legal aid services and fast-track courts and to discourage informal or illegal village-level dispute resolution mechanisms; 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): The Government of India has taken several steps to improve access to justice delivery in the country, including the State of Odisha. To augment the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate courts since 1993-94. In the last five years, under this CSS, assistance of Rs. 136.33 crore (as on 31.12.2025) has been provided to the State of Odisha. As on 31.12.2025, the State of Odisha has 913 court halls and 156 court halls are under construction.

Under the eCourts Project, a total of 184 eSewa Kendras are functioning in the State of Odisha, facilitating a wide array of services to litigants, lawyers and the general public including, assistance in e-filing processes, e-payment of court fees and fines, etc. 220 court complexes under District and Subordinate Courts across the State have been provided with Information Communication Technology (ICT) hardware items and Video Conferencing facility has been enabled in all the District courts across the State. 44 Fast Track Special Courts have been established in the State of Odisha to dispose-off pending cases related to rape of children and women.

The Government has set up National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to the poor and marginalised sections of the society including Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) to ensure that opportunity for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and to organize Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunities. In order to reach out to the citizens in every corner of the country, including Odisha, the legal services institutions have been setup from the Taluk level upto the Supreme Court.

NALSA has notified National Legal Services Authority (Legal Services Clinics) Regulations, 2011 which provides for establishment of District Legal Services Clinics in all villages, or for a cluster of villages, depending upon the size of such villages, which is called the Village Legal Care and Support Centre. Accordingly, 132 Village Legal Care and Support Centres have been setup by the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs), in Odisha to help the marginalized people including tribals to resolve their legal problems, wherever required. The details of persons visited and provided with assistance by Village Legal Care and Support Centres in Odisha during the last two years are as follows:

Year	No. of persons visited	No. of persons provided with assistance
2024	8,029	4,593
2025	7,638	5,644

As part of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, 04 National Lok Adalats (NLAs) have been organised in 2025, from Taluk Courts to High Court of Orissa on the dates scheduled by the NALSA. That apart, pursuant to the direction of the Executive Chairman, Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA), a District level Lok Adalat was also organized by the OSLSA on 27.07.2025 on the cases under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act. Further, 22 Permanent Lok Adalats are functional in Odisha to deal with cases related to Public Utility Services.

In order to provide effective and quality legal services to the disadvantaged and underprivileged sections of the society in court based criminal matters vis a vis Public Defender System and under the aegis of NALSA steps have been taken by OSLSA to implement Legal Aid Defence Council System (LADCS) in 30 DLSAs of the State.

In addition to above, the Department of Justice has been implementing Tele Law and Pro Bono Legal Services (Nyaya Bandhu) Programme for legal assistance to the poor and marginalized sections of the society under the Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme. Under the DISHA scheme, Tele Law connects citizens with the lawyers through Mobile App and Toll Free No. 14454 for rendering Pre-Litigation advice through the use of video/Tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the Panchayat level. Under the Tele Law outreach programme, 29 Nyaya Sahayaks are active as community based legal facilitators in the aspirational blocks of Odisha. They play a critical role in creating awareness about legal rights and entitlements through door-to-door outreach, community interactions and local campaigns.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

REFORMS IN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

JS(e-courts)

✓ 57. Dr. K. Laxman:

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

- (a) whether Government has initiated data-driven and people-centric judicial reforms, as highlighted in the recent OECD Global Roundtable;
- (b) the steps taken toward court digitization and improving interoperability between judicial, police and prosecution systems;
- (c) the measures adopted to strengthen evidence-based decision-making in the judicial system; and
- (d) whether these reforms are expected to reduce delays and enhance efficiency?

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 alignment with global best practices highlighted in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Global Roundtable 2025, data-driven and people-centric justice reforms have been implemented under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project. Some key initiatives to promote court digitization, enhance interoperability between judicial, police and prosecution systems, and strengthen evidence-based decision-making are as under:

- (i) The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project based on the principle of 'one data one entry', aims to achieve seamless information exchange across all the pillars of criminal justice system including police, prisons, prosecutions, courts and forensics. A data sharing matrix has been approved by the eCommittee of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for exchange of data between Case Information System (CIS) (e-Courts) and other pillars under ICJS.

- (ii) The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) is aimed at creating a centralised searchable national repository of criminal fingerprints, with a database of 1.23 crore finger print records. NAFIS enables real-time matching of fingerprints from many origins such as arrested persons, unknown dead bodies, missing persons, crime scene chance prints, and civil records (where permitted). By replacing legacy systems and integrating State databases, NAFIS has ensured interoperability, speed, accuracy, and uniformity in fingerprint-based identification across all law enforcement agencies.
- (iii) e-Forensic application has been developed for digitizing the forensic workflows with functionalities like user profile, cases management and case reporting.
- (iv) Over 618.36 crore pages of court records including legacy records have been digitized across Courts to ensure faster retrieval, secure storage and seamless digital workflows.
- (v) 29 Virtual Courts have been established to enable online adjudication of traffic challans. Virtual Courts have received 9.81 crore challans, out of which 8.74 crore were disposed and 94.55 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs. 973.32 crore.
- (vi) Video Conferencing facilities have been expanded across 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 jails. Courts have conducted over 3.93 crore hearings through video conferencing, facilitating remote hearings of undertrials, witnesses and lawyers.
- (vii) Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- (viii) E-filing and e-payments systems have been implemented to allow online filing of cases and digital payment of court fees and fines, reducing physical interfaces and procedural bottlenecks. Approximately 1.03 crore cases have been filed electronically through the e-filing platform and the e-payments system has processed transactions for court-fee worth Rs. 1,234 crore and fine worth Rs. 63 crore.
- (ix) The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides public access to case data, statistics of courts across the country and has been upgraded with an improved dashboard, functioning as a monitoring tool, to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
- (x) CIS 4.0 has been implemented in all courts, with enhanced usability, privacy safeguards and integration with national platforms such as NJDG, e-filing, virtual courts and ICJS.
- (xi) The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- (xii) Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal and more than 3 crore SMS and more than 1 crore emails being issued in December 2025.

- (xiii) The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.5 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
 - (xiv) The JustIS app (22,090 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.
 - (xv) e-Sewa Kendras have been operationalised as One-Stop Digital Centres to assist litigants and advocates with e-filing, with filing, case updates, and documentation. 48 e-Sewa Kendras are functional across all High Courts and 2283 e-Sewa Kendras across District Courts.
 - (xvi) The National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system has been implemented for electronic service and tracking of summons and notices using mobile-based and GPS-enabled delivery mechanisms. Under NSTEP, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
 - (xvii) The Open Application Programming Interface (Open API) has been developed by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for sharing its data with other government departments. Open API is being used to track cases centrally at an institutional level, monitor readiness of the case, manage pendency and compliances.
- (d): Yes, these reforms have reduced delays and enhanced efficiency in the justice delivery system by improving case management, enabling real-time monitoring of pendency and disposal, facilitating faster service of processes, and minimising procedural adjournments. The adoption of digital platforms, virtual hearings, data analytics and interoperable systems is contributing to better utilisation of judicial resources, faster resolution of disputes and improved access to justice for litigants.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.758
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026

JR
JS(NMJR-II)

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADATION OF COURTS IN MAHARASHTRA

758# SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) during the last three years for construction of court halls and residences for officials of judiciary in Maharashtra, along with review of funds' utilisation report;
- (b) the current progress of implementation of the 'e-Courts Project Phase-III' in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the number of courts in the State that have so far been made fully paperless under the project and the timeline prescribed for making the remaining courts paperless?

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) Details of funds released to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years under the Central Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Development of Infrastructure Facilities in District & Subordinate Courts is as under: -

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilized
2022-23	100.00	100.00
2023-24	119.53	119.53
2024-25	118.36	118.36
2025-26*	28.06	14.03

* As on 31.01.2026

(b) The current progress of implementation of the e-Courts Project Phase-III under the High Court of Bombay (including State of Maharashtra) is as under: -

- (i) The High Court of Bombay has established e-Sewa Kendras at 351 Court Complexes in the State of Maharashtra, Goa and UT of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- (ii) Video Conferencing System has been provided to 984 Court Complexes/Court

- establishments and Court rooms of the District and Taluka Courts as well as 41 Jails and 40 District Government Hospitals in the State of Maharashtra.
- (iii) Additional hardware such as All-in-One Computers, Scanner, LAN Nodes have been provided to District and Taluka Courts set up before 31.12.2019.
 - (iv) Hardware such as MFD Printers, Scanner, Extra Monitor plus VGA/HDMI splitter, Display monitor, LAN Nodes, UPS 1000 VA etc. have been provided for 179 new Court Rooms established after 31.12.2019. Further, 25 new Court Complexes established after 31.12.2019 have been provided hardware such as LED TV Screen, Touchscreen Kiosk, USB Hard disk etc.
 - (v) Server and Network 24/48 port switches, Racks, Storage NAS 500 TB have been provided for the High Court of Bombay and its Benches.
 - (vi) Grid-connected Rooftop Hybrid Solar Power Systems with battery backup and net metering facilities has been installed at 149 Court Complexes.
 - (vii) To enhance security, efficiency and reliability of digital records and activities in court operations, Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) USB Token with e Signing facility has been provided to all the Judicial Officers including three Court Staff of every Court Room.
 - (viii) For effective and expeditious service of Summons / Notices through National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP), total 2201 Smart Phones have been provided to Bailiffs and Process Servers of District and Taluka Courts under the Bombay High Court.
 - (ix) Under the Capacity Building Programme, 34 training and awareness programmes have been conducted on the ICT covering 1,01,837 stakeholders including Advocates, Advocate Clerks, District Judges, Judges of District Judiciary, Master Trainers and Potential Master Trainers amongst Judicial Officers, Master Trainers among Advocates, Court Staff, Technical Staff of High Court, District and Taluka Courts.
 - (x) As on 31.12.2025, total 8,90,63,956 pages have been scanned and digitized in the Bombay High Court. Further, 22,07,485 pages and 5155 files have been scanned and digitized in 12 District and Taluka Courts as on 31.12.2025.
- (c) As on 31.12.2025, 15 paperless courts have been established under the High Court of Bombay. These include 6 at the Principal Seat of the Bombay High Court, 1 each at its Nagpur, Aurangabad and Goa benches and 6 courts at City Civil Court, Mumbai. Establishment of paperless courts is decided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India in coordination with the concerned High Court.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 759
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

CONDUCT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS IN TAMIL

JS(J-I)
✓759 Dr. M. Dhanapal:

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the long-standing demand to permit conduct of court proceedings in Tamil, particularly in the High Courts and subordinate courts of Tamil Nadu, in order to improve access to justice for litigants, witnesses and advocates who are more conversant with the Tamil language;
- (b) if so, the details and present status 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) As far as Supreme Court and all High Courts are concerned, Article 348(1)(a) of the Constitution of India states that all proceedings in these Courts shall be in English language. However, Article 348 (2) of the Constitution of India provides that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi Language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Further, Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963 states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English Language, for the purposes of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High Court

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

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

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

Based on another request from the Government of Tamil Nadu, the Government requested the Chief Justice of India to review the earlier decision 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 proposal could not be accepted.

As far as District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the provision of Article 235 of the Constitution of India vests the administrative control over these courts with the concerned High Courts in the respective states.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 760
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

JS (APPTs.)

EXAMINATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST JUDGES

✓ 60. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether complaints against judges received by the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justices of High Courts are examined under the in-house procedure;
- (b) the number of cases concluded under the in-house mechanism during the last five years and the broad outcomes thereof, such as closure, advisory or other action, without disclosing identities; and
- (c) if outcomes are not shared, 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): Independence of Judiciary is enshrined in the Constitution of India. The complaints received against Judges and Chief Justices of the High Courts are handled by the judiciary through an "in-house mechanism". The Supreme Court of India, on 7th May, 1997, adopted two Resolutions namely (i) "The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" which lays down certain judicial standards and principles to be observed and followed by the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts and (ii) "In-house procedure" for taking suitable remedial measure against Judges who do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those in the Restatement of values of Judicial Life including those included in the Restatement of Values of Judicial life. As per the established "In-house procedure" for the Higher Judiciary, the Chief Justice of India is competent to receive complaints of the High Courts. Similarly, the Chief Justices of the High Courts are competent to receive complaints against the conduct of High Court Judges.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 761
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026

75CLAP)
✓ 761 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:
PERFORMANCE OF LAWYERS OF LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES

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

- (a) whether Government conducts any outcome-based assessment of cases handled by lawyers engaged by District, State and National Legal Services Authorities, including data on cases won, lost or withdrawn;
- (b) whether the quality of pleadings, arguments and courtroom representation by such lawyers is independently evaluated through audits or random supervision;
- (c) whether Legal Services Authority lawyers actively seek urgent hearings, interim reliefs or stay orders on behalf of beneficiaries, at par with private counsel;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure effective/quality legal aid to needy persons; and
- (e) whether any transparent mechanism exists to remove persistently underperforming legal aid lawyers?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, provides a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating the quality and progress of legal aid services through constitution of Monitoring and Mentoring Committees (MMCs) within all the legal services institutions, viz. Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), High Court Legal Services Committees (HCLSCs), State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and Taluk Legal Services Committees

(TLSCs). The Regulation 8 of the aforesaid Regulations provides for Selection of legal practitioners as panel lawyers. As per Regulation 8(17), "If the panel lawyer is not performing satisfactorily or has acted contrary to the object and spirit of the LSA Act and these regulations, the Legal Services Institution shall take appropriate steps including withdrawal of the case from such lawyer and his removal from the panel." The Regulations 10(1), provide for setting up of Monitoring and Mentoring Committees for close monitoring of the court based legal services rendered and the progress of the cases in the legal aided matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers. As per Regulation 11(5) and 11(8), MMCs shall maintain a register for legal aid cases for monitoring the day-to-day progress of each case and the end results (success or failure) in respect of cases for which legal aid is allowed. This register is scrutinized every month by the Member Secretary or Secretary or Chairman, as the case may be and if the progress of the case is not satisfactory, the Committee may advise the Legal Services Institution to take appropriate steps.

This continuous follow up mechanism ensures accountability, transparency, and quality control in delivery of legal services.

- (c) Legal aid lawyers, like any other advocate, are fully empowered to seek urgent reliefs and procedural directions in the interest of justice, and courts consider such requests on merit alone depending upon facts and circumstances of each case. Further, judicial officers and court officials are also aware of the vision and mandate of legal services institutions, including the importance of ensuring equal and effective access to justice for all.
- (d) Regular training/orientation and subject specific capacity-building initiatives are in place for panel lawyers and Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) under the aegis of the concerned Legal Services Authorities to enhance their skills. Capacity building and training program plays a pivotal role in professionalising legal services rendered by the panel lawyers and LADCs as well as it keeps them updated about the legal developments and relevant welfare schemes for the beneficiaries. It ensures that panel lawyers and defence counsels not only understand the law but are also compassionate, skilled and ready to uphold the constitutional right to legal representation for all, especially the marginalized.

(e) The MMCs, constituted under the NALSA (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, play a pivotal role in overseeing, evaluating, and maintaining the quality of legal aid services. These MMCs are entrusted with the responsibility to closely monitor court-based legal services and the progress of cases in legal aided matters and to guide and advise the panel lawyers. Further, MMCs also monitor case progress by obtaining periodic reports from panel lawyers and assessing their performance. If the progress of the case is found to be unsatisfactory, the Committee advises the concerned legal services institution to take appropriate steps. As per Regulation 8(17) of aforesaid Regulations, if the panel lawyer engaged is not performing satisfactorily, the Legal Service Institution shall take appropriate steps including withdrawal of the case from such lawyer and his removal from the panel.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 762
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

NM
JSCNMJR-I)

PENDENCY OF CASES AND JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PATNA

✓62. **SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether courts in Patna are witnessing high pendency of civil and criminal cases affecting the timely delivery of justice;
- (b) the sanctioned strength versus the working strength of judges in district and subordinate courts there;
- (c) whether shortages of courtrooms, support staff and digital infrastructure have been identified; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen judicial infrastructure, fill vacancies and promote speedy disposal of cases in the State capital?

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): Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. As per the information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending cases in the Patna High Court and the District Court, Patna as on 02.02.2026 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending cases	
		Civil	Criminal
1.	Patna High Court	1,13,813	1,04,781
2.	District Court, Patna	49,055	4,18,901

(b): As per the extant provisions under Article(s) 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the power of superintendence and control over all district courts and courts subordinate thereto under its jurisdiction

is vested in the respective High Courts. The sanctioned strength versus the working strength of judges in district and subordinate courts is not centrally maintained.

(c) & (d): The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for District & Subordinate Judiciary rests with the State Governments/UTs. However, to augment the resources of the State Government/UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District & Subordinate Courts since 1993-94. The Scheme covers five components, viz. Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. As on 31.12.2025, total Central assistance of Rs. 643.68 crore has been provided to the State of Bihar since inception of the Scheme.

As per information received from Patna High Court, at present, working strength of Judicial Officers in the Patna Judgeship is 183 and 167 Court rooms are available thereat. Further, in Patna Judgeship, the support staff manpower strength is 1288 and availability of manpower is 663. Civil Court, Patna and Sub-Divisional court of Patna has been equipped with the Computer hardware under Phase-II and Phase-III of e-Courts project.

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 the 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. Vacancies of Clerk, Stenographer, Deposition Writer-cum-Clerk-cum-Typist and Peon/orderly have been filled in all the Judgeships of Bihar *vide* Employment Notice No. 01/2022, 02/2022, 03/2022 and 04/2022 respectively.

Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. No fixed 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, litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. However, the Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary 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.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 763
ANSWERED ON 05/02/2026**

REGIONAL BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT

JS (APPTS.)
✓ **63. SHRI P. WILSON:**

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

- (a) the details of action taken on feasibility study for establishing regional benches of Supreme Court;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to ensure social diversity and social representation in appointment of judges in higher judiciary and number of SC, ST, OBC, general, women and minority judges appointed in HCs and SC since 2021; and
- (c) the category-wise composition of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 01.02.2026, and the vacancies of judges in each High Court, as on date?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

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

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

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

Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available. Since 2018, the recommendees for the post of High Court Judges are required to provide details regarding their social background in the prescribed format (prepared in consultation with the Supreme Court). As per the information provided by the recommendees, out of 593 Judges appointed from 01.01.2021 till 30.01.2026, 26 belong to SC category, 14 belong to ST category, 80 belong to OBC category and 37 belong to the minority category. 96 women were appointed as Judges in various High Courts during the same period.

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

The details regarding sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancies of Judges in the High Courts, as on 30.01.2026, is at **Annexure**.

Sanctioned strength, Working strength, Vacancies of Judges in the High Courts (As on 30.01.2026)

Sl. No.	High Court(s)	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	110	50
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	32	5
3	Bombay	94	80	14
4	Calcutta	72	43	29
5	Chhattisgarh	22	15	7
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	25	5
8	Gujarat	52	35	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	14	11
11	Jharkhand	25	14	11
12	Karnataka	62	46	16
13	Kerala	47	40	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	42	11
15	Madras	75	53	22
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	19	14
19	Patna	53	38	15
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	61	24
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	3	0
23	Telangana	42	28	14
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	10	1
Total		1122	814	308

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 764
ANSWERED ON - 05/02/2026

JS(e-courts)

IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF E-COURTS PROJECT

✓ 764. Shri A. A. Rahim:

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

- (a) the funds allocated and released under Phase II and Phase III of the e-Courts project, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the objectives set for digitisation and paperless functioning of courts under each phase and the extent of their achievement, so far;
- (c) the number of district and subordinate courts that have been made fully paperless or have substantially reduced paper under the e-Courts project, State-wise; and
- (d) whether any evaluation has been conducted to assess disparities in implementation across States and the steps being taken to ensure uniform digital access to justice?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The details of funds released under Phase II and Phase III of the e-Courts Project, High court-wise and year-wise, are at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

(b) and (c): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in three phases with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. Phase I (2011 – 2015) was primarily focused on basic computerization and internal connectivity in courts. As a result, 14,249 Courts were computerized and Local Area Network (LAN) was installed at 13,683 courts.

Phase II (2015 – 2023) focused on ICT facilitation of judicial services to citizens. The components included computer hardware, computerization of DSLAs/ TLCs, Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity, trainings of stakeholders, establishment of eSewa Kendra, etc.

An advanced CIS software, National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and systems for digital filing and payments were developed, which revolutionized the way public accessed the services provided by the judiciary.

As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of eCourts Project Phase III, digitization of court records is a central focal point of the eCourts initiative. Before Phase III, only 5.9% of the total legacy records were digitized by 21 High Courts. Therefore, a robust infrastructural regime for scanning and digitisation has been approved under Phase III for digitisation of approximately 3,100 crore documents, including legacy and current records. A Digital Preservation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for scanning, storage, retrieval, digitisation, and preservation of judicial records.

Further, the DPR proposes the setting up of infrastructure for paperless courts, including a customised software application for paperless courts wherein the e-filed and scanned documents can be displayed in the paperless court application and made accessible to judicial officers, litigants, lawyers, and the public. Judicial officers can access the cause list and digitized case papers/ paper books of their respective courts through their systems. The transition towards paperless courts through digitisation, virtual courts, e-filing, e-payments, and related initiatives has already resulted in a significant reduction in physical paper usage across Courts. The details of digitisation of records, virtual courts and video conferencing as provided by eCommittee, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, High Court-wise and District court-wise are at **Annexure-III**.

Further, Digital Courts 2.1, a software tool developed by the Centre of Excellence for eCourts [CoEE], NIC, Pune, is a customized application for paperless Courts with facility of translation and transcription using AI. It enables judges to access all case related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem.

(d): Periodic reviews are undertaken in coordination with the High Courts and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to assess the progress of implementation across States/UTs. Steps have been taken to enhance uniform digital access to justice through financial and technical support, capacity building initiatives, standardisation of platforms, and strengthened court infrastructure.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 764 FOR 05.02.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION AND
OUTCOMES OF E-COURTS PROJECT**

Details of funds released under Phase II of the e-Courts project, High court-wise and year-wise:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	High Court	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
1	Allahabad	31.14	20.88	20.57	8.07	15.04	13.79	0.00	109.48
2	Andhra Pradesh	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.96
3	Bombay	30.39	38.25	47.22	0.52	0.00	8.86	0.00	125.24
4	Calcutta	12.14	9.17	10.72	0.13	0.00	4.93	0.00	37.09
5	Chhattisgarh	3.82	6.03	9.34	1.33	4.44	2.34	0.00	27.31
6	Delhi	5.87	5.41	8.97	3.54	0.00	3.00	0.00	26.80
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.59	4.33	1.37	2.85	0.98	1.52	1.26	12.90
8	Gauhati (Assam)	5.19	25.47	8.13	8.70	13.68	6.11	3.49	70.77
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.71	3.01	2.47	0.15	0.51	0.72	0.30	7.87
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.77	2.31	1.83	0.71	0.70	0.83	0.84	7.99
11	Gujarat*	11.23	18.32	29.06	10.73	0.00	3.48	0.00	72.82
12	Himachal Pradesh	1.79	3.21	4.05	0.13	0.00	2.00	0.00	11.19
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	1.84	5.29	10.59	0.26	0.00	1.00	0.00	18.98
14	Jharkhand	3.20	5.09	2.92	4.53	5.53	2.98	0.00	24.25
15	Karnataka	11.86	17.43	22.04	0.61	9.15	4.29	0.00	65.38
16	Kerala	5.53	8.32	14.73	4.61	0.00	2.83	1.58	37.61

S. No.	High Court	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	Total
17	Madhya Pradesh	9.73	23.93	22.51	0.39	11.21	6.28	0.00	74.05
18	Madras	10.24	24.62	25.45	5.11	0.00	4.73	0.00	70.15
19	Manipur	0.53	4.24	1.19	0.65	0.61	1.30	0.76	9.27
20	Meghalaya	0.19	3.26	3.65	0.62	0.92	2.32	2.23	13.17
21	Orissa	7.57	7.71	12.70	1.59	13.46	3.37	0.00	46.41
22	Patna	8.04	26.41	8.72	0.13	7.08	5.44	0.00	55.82
23	Punjab & Haryana	11.63	17.92	11.54	8.49	0.00	4.55	0.00	54.13
24	Rajasthan	9.97	23.04	25.05	3.01	1.29	10.58	1.62	74.56
25	Sikkim	0.18	1.80	1.40	0.80	1.61	1.01	0.77	7.58
26	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	13.90	14.31	33.95	8.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.29
27	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	1.79
28	Tripura	1.20	4.38	2.86	1.77	2.24	4.44	0.96	17.86
29	Uttarakhand	2.98	2.66	4.60	0.13	0.00	1.28	0.00	11.65
Total (in Cr.)		202.23	326.79	347.65	77.71	88.44	107.74	13.81	1164.37

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

** Funds released to erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court; shared in the ratio of 58:42 respectively.

Note: In addition to the funds released to High Courts, Rs 180.57 crore were released to NIC for providing technical support, Rs 293.68 crore to BSNL for WAN (Wide Area Network) connectivity, Rs 13.50 crore to eCommittee, SCI under Change Management and Rs 16.31 crore for miscellaneous expenditure (salary, office expenses, publicity, etc).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 764 FOR 05.02.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION AND
OUTCOMES OF E-COURTS PROJECT**

Details of funds released under Phase III of the e-Courts project, High court-wise and year-wise:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	High Court	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Allahabad	95.87	51.78	119.92
2	Andhra Pradesh	25.44	31.74	15.81
3	Bombay	69.54	83.19	92.41
4	Calcutta	16.73	27.65	9.50
5	Chhattisgarh	16.27	24.17	39.11
6	Delhi	17.89	48.19	17.90
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	2.03	9.76	1.79
8	Gauhati (Assam)	24.97	33.85	3.65
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	3.12	6.22	1.99
10	Gauhati, Kohima (Nagaland)	1.79	3.91	3.41
11	Gujarat	27.72	73.21	48.89
12	Himachal Pradesh	6.06	6.89	7.63
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	6.52	14.53	12.81
14	Jharkhand	10.59	29.22	7.65
15	Karnataka	32.37	67.40	48.22
16	Kerala	15.40	32.62	51.60
17	Madhya Pradesh	22.90	77.31	48.58
18	Madras	90.69	91.75	113.20
19	Manipur	11.12	7.54	2.16
20	Meghalaya	3.33	8.50	3.83
21	Orissa	6.77	53.24	16.09
22	Patna	32.43	89.55	57.61
23	Punjab And Haryana	14.58	26.01	10.01
24	Rajasthan	19.80	34.72	60.88
25	Sikkim	1.71	8.98	2.51

S. No.	High Court	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
26	Telangana	22.03	28.57	28.91
27	Tripura	0.53	7.05	8.79
28	Uttarakhand	13.68	19.95	29.57
	Total	611.88	997.49	864.43*

** As on 02.02.2026*

Note: In addition to the funds released to High Courts, Rs. 185.06 crore have been released to NIC for providing technical support, Rs 54.79 crore to BSNL for WAN (Wide Area Network) connectivity, Rs 17.51 crore to eCommittee, SCI under Change Management, Rs 0.28 crore to IIT Madras for development of e-Learning platform, and Rs 9.42 crore for miscellaneous expenditure (salary, office expenses, publicity, etc).

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 764 FOR 05.02.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF E-COURTS PROJECT

I. Details of digitization of court records in High Courts and District Courts till 31.12.2025:

S. No.	High Court	Total Pages Digitized in High Court	Total Pages Digitized in District Courts
1	Allahabad	57,74,41,007	1,68,69,63,743
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,41,11,865	17,28,50,732
3	Bombay	8,90,63,956	22,07,485
4	Calcutta	5,95,17,135	0
5	Chhattisgarh	24,26,800	1,91,84,603
6	Delhi	23,46,18,073	10,48,83,922
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	5,06,407	1,26,322
8	Gauhati – Assam	2,97,53,593	15,58,31,203
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	12,31,287	20,97,820
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	0	0
11	Gujarat	16,98,629	11,64,409
12	Himachal Pradesh	79,15,775	11,81,757
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	4,11,76,756	2,50,11,814
14	Jharkhand	3,01,84,408	96,24,854
15	Karnataka	5,14,20,668	4,63,47,270
16	Kerala	8,17,95,531	1,71,13,720
17	Madhya Pradesh	24,62,88,505	66,68,95,995
18	Madras	20,76,93,848	13,16,62,142
19	Manipur	58,56,075	57,36,785
20	Meghalaya	11,56,596	38,20,961
21	Orissa	5,33,13,761	17,36,02,357
22	Patna	2,40,49,339	2,39,56,123
23	Punjab & Haryana	29,46,04,020	62,82,06,241

S. No.	High Court	Total Pages Digitized in High Court	Total Pages Digitized in District Courts
24	Rajasthan	13,44,36,567	3,50,10,815
25	Sikkim	11,73,135	54,15,378
26	Telangana	12,85,86,477	7,61,42,250
27	Tripura	54,39,454	5,62,558
28	Uttarakhand	2,41,91,236	1,33,14,115
Total		2,36,96,50,903	4,00,89,15,374

(Source: eCommittee, SCI)

II. Details of virtual court establishments and challans, state-wise till 31.12.2025:

S. No.	Virtual Court Establishment Name	Number of Challans Received	Challan Amount (In Rs.)
1	Assam (Assam Traffic Department)	2,52,352	3,10,25,201
2	Chandigarh (Virtual Court Chandigarh)	18,14,186	24,49,08,810
3	Chhattisgarh (Traffic Department)	1,29,303	82,60,701
4	Chhattisgarh (Transport Department)	49,572	3,30,500
5	Delhi (Notice Department)	2,62,11,142	2,18,20,23,706
6	Delhi (Traffic Department)	1,10,92,663	2,15,46,13,153
7	Gujarat (Traffic Department)	74,86,237	41,16,95,656
8	Gujarat (Transport Department)	8,10,340	33,05,10,865
9	Haryana (Traffic Department)	51,63,782	26,95,79,801
10	Himachal Pradesh (Traffic Department)	8,89,304	5,33,29,353
11	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Jammu Traffic Department)	14,59,411	12,12,00,646
12	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Kashmir Traffic Department)	14,20,148	14,98,72,014
13	Karnataka (Traffic Department)	1,27,657	1,10,16,14,350
14	Kerala (Police Department)	50,16,507	17,63,55,442
15	Kerala (Transport Department)	15,24,588	28,09,68,711
16	Madhya Pradesh (Traffic Department)	21,09,341	5,75,54,610
17	Maharashtra (Transport Department)	56,569	31,49,705
18	Maharashtra (Nashik Traffic Department)	22	2
19	Manipur (Virtual Court – Traffic)	19,671	7,96,000
20	Manipur (Virtual Court –Transport)	6,436	4,34,500
21	Meghalaya (Traffic Department)	6,472	1,00,501
22	Odisha (Traffic CTC-BBSR Commissionerate)	8,80,783	7,63,59,501
23	Rajasthan (Traffic Department)	3,17,077	2,16,07,070
24	Tamil Nadu (Traffic Department)	2,53,972	1,17,54,41,050
25	Tripura (Traffic Department)	2,69,894	42,48,726

S. No.	Virtual Court Establishment Name	Number of Challans Received	Challan Amount (In Rs.)
26	Uttar Pradesh (Traffic Department)	2,99,56,401	82,72,27,444
27	Uttarakhand (Traffic Department)	1,66,141	1,85,93,902
28	Uttarakhand (Transport Department)	1,43,967	2,30,60,042
29	West Bengal (Traffic Department)	4,83,932	76,88,452
	Total	9,81,17,870	973,25,50,414

(Source: eCommittee, SCI)

III. Number of cases heard via video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts till 31.12.2025:

S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts
1	Allahabad	2,49,060	66,73,818
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,21,307	14,57,401
3	Bombay	94,493	3,10,408
4	Calcutta	1,81,591	1,85,189
5	Chhattisgarh	1,05,175	4,59,698
6	Delhi	3,22,201	75,03,131
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	3,574	8,779
8	Gauhati – Assam	2,67,767	5,47,962
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	4,294	13,268
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	1,477	1,278
11	Gujarat	4,20,087	2,34,667
12	Himachal Pradesh	1,86,350	2,02,660
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	2,65,337	5,98,259
14	Jharkhand	2,25,235	7,45,304
15	Karnataka	12,78,460	1,92,285
16	Kerala	2,80,384	6,93,555
17	Madhya Pradesh	6,97,374	11,72,912
18	Madras	15,31,620	4,79,195
19	Manipur	55,160	18,811
20	Meghalaya	6,930	77,483
21	Orissa	3,59,593	3,66,450
22	Patna	2,78,212	32,75,264
23	Punjab & Haryana	6,53,089	37,34,523
24	Rajasthan	2,54,597	2,66,506
25	Sikkim	926	17,890
26	Telangana	15,31,472	2,01,818
27	Tripura	22,535	42,737
28	Uttarakhand	91,252	51,892
Total		97,89,552	2,95,33,143

(Source: eCommittee, SCI)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 146
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

JUDICIAL REFORMS

✓ 146. # SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

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

- (a) the concrete steps taken under recent budgetary provisions to reduce pending cases in the judicial system and strengthen judicial infrastructure;
- (b) the details of new policy initiatives related to e-courts, alternative dispute resolution and expansion of legal services; and
- (c) the details of measurable improvements observed, so far, in speedy justice efficiency and access to justice, as a result of these measures?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 146 FOR ANSWER ON 12.02.2026 REGARDING 'JUDICIAL REFORMS'

(a) to (c): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing the pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several steps to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary and to strengthen the judicial infrastructure, which includes the following:

- i. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. As on November, 2025, 618.36 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.89 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing, and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of eSewaKendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 2059 across High Courts and District Courts.
- ii. Fast Track Courts have been established for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, cases involving women, children, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses, and property-related cases pending for more than five years. As per information received from the High Courts, 876 FTCs are functional across 21 States/UTs as on 30.11.2025. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs for expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.
- iii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, 774 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act, and have collectively disposed of 3,66,124 cases since their inception, as on 31.12.2025. The financial outlay under the scheme is Rs. 1952.23 crore with Rs. 1207.24 crore as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund on the CSS pattern. The Central Government, as on 05.02.2026, has released a total amount of Rs. 1,156.99 crore to States/UTs for the operationalization of FTSCs since the inception of the Scheme in 2019.
- iv. To augment the resources of the State /UT Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts by providing financial assistance to the State/UT Governments in the prescribed fund sharing between center and states. Under the Scheme, a sum of Rs. 12,461.28 crore has been released since the inception of this scheme in 1993-94. The number of Court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,683 (as on 31.12.2025), and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,029 (as on 31.12.2025), under this Scheme.
- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. 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.

- vi. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. 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 Lok Adalats from 2016 to Dec 2025 are as under:

Lok Adalat	Pre-litigative cases	Pending cases
National Lok Adalat	33,80,76,089	8,45,59,866
State Lok Adalats	39,33,548	67,03,159
Permanent Lok Adalats (cases relating to public utility service)	14,58,389	-

- vii. As per Article 39A of the Constitution of India and as a part of the preventive and strategic legal aid, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) through the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has undertaken several legal services activities in the country to ensure that legal aid reach the poor. To strengthen the criminal court based legal services, the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme has been introduced as a Central Sector Scheme by the Department of Justice, which involves full time engagement of Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) with supporting staff at district level. As on December 2025, Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) offices are functional in 680 districts across the country. LADCS Scheme has been approved for the period of 3 financial years (2023-24 to 2025-26) with a total financial outlay Rs. 998.43 crore, and up to January 2026, Rs. 643.755 crore has been released to NALSA for LADCS Scheme. The details of criminal cases assigned and disposed of by LADCs during the last three years are as follows:-

Financial Year	Criminal Cases assigned	Criminal Cases disposed	Disposal Rate
2023-24	3,36,830	2,12,505	63%
2024-25	5,32,413	3,72,750	70%
2025-26 (Dec. 2025)	3,93,614	2,86,326	73%
Total	12,62,857	8,71,581	69%

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1519
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

VACANCIES IN LOWER JUDICIARY

JSLVMJR-I)

✓ 1519. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) the details of vacancies of administrative and clerical staffs in lower judiciary as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of vacancies filled up during the last three years and the current year, till date, State-wise with particular district-wise reference to Delhi;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of instances of suicides by administrative and clerical staffs in lower judiciary in Delhi, recently, due to vacancies and consequent work pressure;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of steps Government/High Courts would take to fill up the vacancies to avoid such instances?

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): Filling up of vacancies of administrative and clerical staffs in lower judiciary does not fall in the purview of the Central Government. As per the extant provision under Article(s) 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the power of superintendence and control over all district courts and courts subordinate thereto under its jurisdiction is vested in the respective High Courts. The information regarding vacancies of administrative and clerical staffs in lower judiciary, state-wise and vacancies filled up during the last three years and the current year, till date, state-wise is not centrally maintained. The Government has been informed by the Delhi High Court regarding one suicidal death of Mr. Harish Singh Mahar, Ahlmad, posted in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) (Digital Traffic Court), South-East District (SED), Saket Court Complex on 09.01.2026. The matter has been reported to the police and the investigation remains within the domain of the police. As per information provided by the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, a suicide note was recovered from the pocket of the deceased by the attending doctor. As per the contents of the note, the deceased mentioned work-related pressure as the reason for committing suicide and stated that no person should be held responsible for the incident. The deceased, who was 60% physically handicapped by birth, requested that light duties be assigned to persons with disabilities.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1544
ANSWERED ON - 12/02/2026

JSE-courts)

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN DISTRICT COURTS

✓ 1544. Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:

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

- (a) the schemes and initiatives undertaken during the last five years to strengthen digital infrastructure and e-governance in district courts across the country;
- (b) the district courts covered and proposed to be covered under these initiatives, State-wise;
- (c) the district courts yet to be covered or under process in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise particularly in Nellore district; and
- (d) whether training and capacity-building programmes have been conducted for judicial officers and court staff for effective use of digital infrastructure and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. Phase II (2015 – 2023), having financial outlay of Rs. 1670 crore, focused on ICT facilitation of judicial services to citizens. The components under Phase II included computer hardware, computerization of District and State Legal Services Authorities, Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity, trainings of stakeholders, establishment of eSewa Kendra, Case Information System (CIS) software and National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Systems for digital filing and payments were developed in this phase, which revolutionized the way public accessed the services provided by the judiciary.

Phase III (2023 – 2027), having a financial outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore, envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, extending online courts beyond traffic violations and strengthening e-filing and e-payments systems. Some key initiatives under the eCourts Project as on 31.12.2025 are as under:

- (i) Over 637.85 crore pages of court records including legacy records have been digitized across Courts to ensure faster retrieval, secure storage and seamless digital workflows.
- (ii) 29 Virtual Courts have been established to enable online adjudication of traffic challans. Virtual Courts have received 9.81 crore challans, out of which 8.74 crore were disposed and 94.55 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs. 973.32 crore.
- (iii) Video Conferencing (VC) facilities have been expanded across 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 jails. Courts have conducted over 3.93 crore hearings through video conferencing, facilitating remote hearings of undertrials, witnesses and lawyers.
- (iv) Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- (v) E-filing and e-payments systems have been implemented to allow online filing of cases and digital payment of court fees and fines. Approximately 1.03 crore cases have been filed through the e-filing platform and the e-payments system has processed transactions for court-fee worth Rs. 1,234 crore and fine worth Rs. 63 crore.
- (vi) National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides public access to case data, statistics of courts across the country and has been upgraded with an improved dashboard, functioning as a monitoring tool, to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
- (vii) CIS 4.0 has been implemented in all courts, with enhanced usability, privacy safeguards and integration with national platforms such as NJDG, e-filing, virtual courts and ICJS.
- (viii) The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- (ix) Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal and more than 3 crore SMSes and more than 1 crore emails were issued in December 2025.
- (x) The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.5 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- (xi) The JustIS app (22,090 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.

- (xii) 48 e-Sewa Kendras are functional across all High Courts and 2283 e-Sewa Kendras across District Courts.
 - (xiii) The National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system has been implemented for electronic service and tracking of summons and notices using mobile-based and GPS-enabled delivery mechanisms. Under NSTEP, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
 - (xiv) Digital Courts 2.1 is a customized application for paperless Courts with facility of translation and transcription using AI. It enables judges to access all case related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem.
- (b): Under the eCourts Project, all district and subordinate courts across the country are covered in a phased manner. Implementation is carried out by the respective High Courts, based on local requirements and readiness. The details of courts covered under the eCourts project, state-wise is at **Annexure-I**.
- (c): In the State of Andhra Pradesh, the eCourts project is being implemented under the guidance of the Andhra Pradesh High Court in all district and subordinate courts. A total of 649 courts in the State of Andhra Pradesh are covered under the eCourts project, including 40 courts in Nellore District.
- (d): Comprehensive training and capacity building measures are in place to ensure effective utilisation of digital platforms and technologies under the eCourts Project. The trainings follow a six-tier national, state, and regional model, ensuring uniform digital readiness across the system. The e-Committee, Supreme Court of India has conducted 966 training programmes and has trained 3.22 lakh stakeholders, including judges, litigants, advocates and court staffs.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1544 FOR 12.02.2026 REGARDING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN DISTRICT COURTS

Details of courts covered under the e-Courts Project, state-wise:

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of courts under eCourts
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	649
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
4.	Assam	416
5.	Bihar	2065
6.	Chandigarh	29
7.	Chhattisgarh	462
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	8
9.	Delhi	712
10.	Goa	65
11.	Gujarat	1103
12.	Haryana	485
13.	Himachal Pradesh	147
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	247
15.	Jharkhand	555
16.	Karnataka	1122
17.	Kerala	590
18.	Ladakh	9
19.	Lakshadweep	3
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1828
21.	Maharashtra	2288
22.	Manipur	47
23.	Meghalaya	66
24.	Mizoram	41
25.	Nagaland	26
26.	Odisha	699
27.	Puducherry	35
28.	Punjab	655
29.	Rajasthan	1603
30.	Sikkim	42
31.	Tamil Nadu	1317
32.	Telangana	570
33.	Tripura	90
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3321

35.	Uttarakhand	266
36.	West Bengal	821
	Total	22,411

(Source: NJDG portal as on 09.02.2026)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1545
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES UNDER POCSO ACT

✓1545. SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than two lakh cases under the POCSO Act remain pending in courts across the country;
- (b) the number of Fast Track Special Courts currently operational to deal with such cases;
- (c) the average time taken for disposal; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve judge strength, forensic support and child-friendly infrastructure?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As per the information made available by the High Courts, as of 31.12.2025, 774 FTSCs, including 398 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts were functional in 29 States/UTs, with pendency of 2,45,579 cases, of which 2,24,572 cases pertain to offences under the POCSO Act.

(c): As per the inputs received from the High Courts, the State/UT-wise details of the average trial time taken in FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts during 2024, are given at Annexure.

(d): As regards the recruitment of judges/prosecutors and staff in courts, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts including the FTSCs, is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments and the concerned High Courts. 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 State/UT Government in

consultation with the respective High Court frames the rules regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers.

With regard to forensic support, the Government of India has approved establishment of many new Central Forensic Science Laboratories.

As regards child-friendly infrastructure, Fast Track Special Courts have been encouraging the use of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within existing court complexes to facilitate victims and to promote a child-friendly judicial environment. Further, with a view to conduct periodic training programmes for manning and managing the VWDCs and sensitizing all stakeholders, the Supreme Court constituted a committee chaired by former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir. As per the report submitted by the Committee, most of the High Courts have since adopted the Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDC) Scheme, with training programmes conducted covering over 10,000 participants.

State/UT-wise details of the average trial time taken in FTSCs including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts during 2024

Sl. No.	State/UT	Average Time taken for the Trial in FTSCs (in days)
1	Andhra Pradesh	257
2	Assam	940
3	Bihar	941
4	Chandigarh	592.5
5	Chhattisgarh	332.5
6	Delhi	1639.5
7	Goa	547.5
8	Gujarat	1292.5
9	Haryana	575
10	Himachal Pradesh	434.5
11	Jammu & Kashmir	912.5
12	Jharkhand*	640.5
13	Karnataka	817
14	Kerala	796.5
15	Madhya Pradesh	380
16	Maharashtra	575
17	Manipur	1350
18	Meghalaya	910
19	Mizoram	1155
20	Nagaland	1185
21	Odisha	499.5
22	Puducherry	180
23	Punjab	590
24	Rajasthan	880
25	Tamil Nadu	466
26	Telangana	434.5
27	Tripura	1484
28	Uttarakhand	512.5
29	Uttar Pradesh	861.34
30	West Bengal	910

* The State of Jharkhand exited the Scheme vide its letter dated 07.07.2025.

Source: As per data provided by the High Courts

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1546
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

JS(LAP)
✓1546. # SHRI NARESH BANSAL:
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

- (a) the legal aid services available to persons with disabilities;
- (b) the functioning of the Special Legal Services Units established for persons with mental illness and intellectual disability;
- (c) the details of accessibility standards set for judicial Infrastructure;
- (d) whether advanced accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities have been incorporated in the Phase III e-Courts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The Government has undertaken several measures to make available affordable, quality and speedy legal services to the common man, including persons with disabilities. The legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987 provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society including Persons with Disabilities.

NALSA is also implementing a specific Scheme for Persons with Disabilities named NALSA (Legal Services to the Mentally Ill and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024. This Scheme aims to ensure that legal services are responsive to the specific legal and social needs of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities. Under this Scheme, specialised 'Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness & Persons with

Intellectual Disabilities called 'Manonyay' (LSUM)' units have been established in all States/UTs except Ladakh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

The details of the persons with disabilities provided legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the last three financial years and the current financial year 2025-2026 (upto December,2025) is as under:

Financial Year	Number of persons with disabilities provided legal services
2022-23	5,050
2023-24	11,591
2024-25	8,313
2025-26 (upto December, 2025)	10,119

(c): The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts by augmenting the resources of the State Governments/UTs for construction of Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Hall, Digital Computer Rooms and Toilet Complexes. As per guidelines of the Scheme, the States/UTs ensures that the proposed infrastructure have disabled-friendly design. The building design are in conformity with the requisite norms/accessibility standards as laid down by Central Public Works Department, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, from time to time.

(d) and (e): Under eCourts Project Phase III, there are 24 components that have several significant measures devised to foster the creation of a robust and accessible digital infrastructure for citizens including persons with disabilities. Provision has been made for providing enhanced accessible ICT enabled facilities to persons with disabilities, at a budgetary outlay of Rs. 27.54 crore, migration of websites of 752 Courts (including High Courts) to S3WaaS platform (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service) that makes the website friendly for persons with disabilities. S3WaaS platform has features for easy visibility of content for partially and completely visually challenged citizens.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1547
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

JSC (APPTS)
✓ 1547. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:
SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:
SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) the number of vacancies in Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate judiciary since December 2025;
- (b) how many judicial appointments were made during this period;
- (c) whether delays were observed in the collegium or appointment process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) how pendency levels changed following recent appointments; and
- (f) the measures initiated to improve judge-population ratios?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (f): The details of number of vacancies in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Judiciary, is as below:

Name of Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
Supreme Court (as on 06.02.2026)	34	33	01
High Court (as on 06.02.2026)	1122	813	309
District and Subordinate Court (as on 05.02.2026)	25,894	21,046	4,848

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court.

Filling up of the vacancy in the higher Judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level which are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

7 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court and 157 Judges were appointed in various High Courts in the year 2025. 07 Judges have been appropriated in High Courts so far in 2026.

Further, 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 the 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.

Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders,

viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. besides the shortage of judges. The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1548
ANSWERED ON - 12/02/2026**

DIGITIZATION OF COURTS

JSle-corts
✓1548 # Shri Chunnilal Garasiya:

Shri Rajib Bhattacharjee:

Shri Mayankkumar Nayak:

Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh:

Smt. Rekha Sharma:

Shri Narayana Koragappa:

Dr. Bhagwat Karad:

Shri Ashokrao Shankarrao Chavan:

Shri Lahar Singh Siroya:

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

- (a) the progress made under the e-Courts project during the last year;
- (b) whether digitization in pilot courts has reduced case disposal time;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the current status of financial and infrastructural support to the States;
- (e) the manner in which concerns related to cybersecurity and data protection are being addressed; and
- (f) the roadmap for expansion of digital courts nationwide?

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 e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner across the country with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. The e-Courts Project is currently in Phase III (2023-

2027), with a financial outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore. During the last year, the e-Courts project has seen continued progress through expansion of e-filing, e-payments, increased adoption of virtual and hybrid hearings, digitisation of court records, strengthening of Case Information System, and enhanced public access to case information through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) etc. Some key initiatives and achievements under the eCourts Project as on 31.12.2025 are as under:

- (i) Over 637.85 crore pages of court records including legacy records have been digitized across Courts to ensure faster retrieval, secure storage and seamless digital workflows.
- (ii) 29 Virtual Courts have been established to enable online adjudication of traffic challans. Virtual Courts have received 9.81 crore challans, out of which 8.74 crore were disposed and 94.55 lakh challans were paid amounting to Rs. 973.32 crore.
- (iii) Video Conferencing (VC) facilities have been expanded across 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 jails. Courts have conducted over 3.93 crore hearings through video conferencing, facilitating remote hearings of undertrials, witnesses and lawyers.
- (iv) Live streaming of court proceeding is operational in 11 High Courts.
- (v) E-filing and e-payments systems have been implemented to allow online filing of cases and digital payment of court fees and fines. Approximately 1.03 crore cases have been filed through the e-filing platform and the e-payments system has processed transactions for court-fee worth Rs. 1,234 crore and fine worth Rs. 63 crore.
- (vi) National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides public access to case data, statistics of courts across the country and has been upgraded with an improved dashboard, functioning as a monitoring tool, to identify, manage & reduce pendency of cases.
- (vii) CIS 4.0 has been implemented in all courts, with enhanced usability, privacy safeguards and integration with national platforms such as NJDG, e-filing, virtual courts and ICJS.
- (viii) The S3WaaS platform hosts 730 District Court websites, ensuring secure and accessible web infrastructure.
- (ix) Real-time digital services have expanded significantly, with 35 lakh daily hits on the e-Courts portal and more than 3 crore SMSes and more than 1 crore emails were issued in December 2025.
- (x) The e-Courts Services mobile app (3.5 crore downloads) provides the lawyers and litigants relevant information about case status, cause lists etc.
- (xi) The JustIS app (22,090 downloads) is a management tool for the judges assisting them to effectively organise and monitor their judicial business.

- (xii) 48 e-Sewa Kendras are functional across all High Courts and 2283 e-Sewa Kendras across District Courts.
- (xiii) The National Service and Tracking of Electronics Processes (NSTEP) system has been implemented for electronic service and tracking of summons and notices using mobile-based and GPS-enabled delivery mechanisms. Under NSTEP, the courts have processed 6.21 crore e-processes, out of which 1.61 crore e-processes have been successfully delivered.
- (xiv) Digital Courts 2.1 is a customized application for paperless Courts with facility of translation and transcription using Artificial Intelligence (AI). It enables judges to access all case related documents, pleadings, and evidence digitally, marking a significant leap toward a paperless court ecosystem.

(b) & (c): Digitization initiatives undertaken in the courts are intended to improve efficiency, transparency and accessibility of court processes. While case disposal time depends on multiple factors, including complexity of the case, the nature of evidence, delay in reports from forensic labs, cooperation of key stakeholders such as the bar, investigating agencies, witnesses, litigants and social stigma and biases, judicial workload etc, the digitization has contributed to smoother workflows, reduced dependency on physical records and enhanced access to justice for litigants. The details of digitization of records, High Court-wise, as provided by the eCommittee, are at **Annexure-I**.

(d): Under the e-Courts project, financial and infrastructural support is being provided to the High Courts for procurement of hardware, networking, connectivity, video-conferencing facilities and related digital infrastructure. The High Courts function as the implementing agencies, responsible for hardware procurement, maintenance, and upkeep. The e-Committee, Supreme Court of India provides policy inputs, while National Informatics Centre (NIC) handles software development and technical support. Funding is provided under the project based on demand received from respective High Courts and subject to the recommendations of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India. The High Court-wise details of funds released under Phase III are at **Annexure-II**.

Further, the primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities for district and subordinate courts rests with the State/UT Governments. To augment the resources of the States/UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and

Subordinate courts. As on 31.12.2025, Rs. 12,461.28 crore has been released to the States/UTs since inception of the Scheme. During the current financial year 2025–26, an amount of Rs. 409.87 crore has been released to the States/UTs till 31.12.2025. 22,683 court halls and 20,029 residential units for judicial officers are available as on 31.12.2025, out of which, 486 court halls and 191 residential units have been constructed during the current financial year.

(e): Concerns relating to cybersecurity and data protection are regularly addressed through adoption of standard security protocols, role-based access controls, capacity-building initiatives, secure hosting environments, and compliance with applicable Government guidelines on information security. E-Courts applications at national level are hosted on NIC's cloud infrastructure in compliance with cybersecurity norms prescribed by the Government from time to time. Further, cyber security training programmes were conducted for the technical teams and staff of High Courts and District courts in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University, covering digital forensics, Security Operations Centre (SOC) operations, and incident response using simulated real-world cyber-attacks providing practical experience.

(f): Phase III of the project envisions transforming Indian courts into digital and paperless courts by digitizing legacy and current case records, expanding video conferencing to all courts, jails, and selected hospitals, extending online courts beyond traffic violations, strengthening e-filing and e-payments system, creation of cloud-based data repository for storing digitized court records, and deployment of emerging technologies such as AI and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for case analysis and forecasting. These initiatives are being implemented in a phased manner under the guidance of the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 1548 FOR 12.02.2026 REGARDING DIGITIZATION OF COURTS**

Details of digitization of court records in High Courts and District Courts till 31.12.2025:

S. No.	High Court	Total Pages Digitized in High Court	Total Pages Digitized in District Courts
1	Allahabad	57,74,41,007	1,68,69,63,743
2	Andhra Pradesh	3,41,11,865	17,28,50,732
3	Bombay	8,90,63,956	22,07,485
4	Calcutta	5,95,17,135	0
5	Chhattisgarh	24,26,800	1,91,84,603
6	Delhi	23,46,18,073	10,48,83,922
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	5,06,407	1,26,322
8	Gauhati – Assam	2,97,53,593	15,58,31,203
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	12,31,287	20,97,820
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	0	0
11	Gujarat	16,98,629	11,64,409
12	Himachal Pradesh	79,15,775	11,81,757
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	4,11,76,756	2,50,11,814
14	Jharkhand	3,01,84,408	96,24,854
15	Karnataka	5,14,20,668	4,63,47,270
16	Kerala	8,17,95,531	1,71,13,720
17	Madhya Pradesh	24,62,88,505	66,68,95,995
18	Madras	20,76,93,848	13,16,62,142
19	Manipur	58,56,075	57,36,785
20	Meghalaya	11,56,596	38,20,961
21	Orissa	5,33,13,761	17,36,02,357
22	Patna	2,40,49,339	2,39,56,123
23	Punjab & Haryana	29,46,04,020	62,82,06,241
24	Rajasthan	13,44,36,567	3,50,10,815
25	Sikkim	11,73,135	54,15,378
26	Telangana	12,85,86,477	7,61,42,250
27	Tripura	54,39,454	5,62,558
28	Uttarakhand	2,41,91,236	1,33,14,115
Total		2,36,96,50,903	4,00,89,15,374

(Source: eCommittee, SCI)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1548 FOR 12.02.2026 REGARDING DIGITIZATION OF COURTS

Details of funds released under Phase III of the e-Courts project, High court-wise and year-wise:

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	High Court	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Allahabad	95.87	51.78	119.92
2	Andhra Pradesh	25.44	31.74	15.81
3	Bombay	69.54	83.19	92.41
4	Calcutta	16.73	27.65	9.50
5	Chhattisgarh	16.27	24.17	39.11
6	Delhi	17.89	48.19	17.90
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	2.03	9.76	1.79
8	Gauhati (Assam)	24.97	33.85	3.65
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	3.12	6.22	1.99
10	Gauhati, Kohima (Nagaland)	1.79	3.91	3.41
11	Gujarat	27.72	73.21	48.89
12	Himachal Pradesh	6.06	6.89	7.63
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	6.52	14.53	12.81
14	Jharkhand	10.59	29.22	7.65
15	Karnataka	32.37	67.40	48.22
16	Kerala	15.40	32.62	51.60
17	Madhya Pradesh	22.90	77.31	48.58
18	Madras	90.69	91.75	113.20
19	Manipur	11.12	7.54	2.16
20	Meghalaya	3.33	8.50	3.83
21	Orissa	6.77	53.24	16.09
22	Patna	32.43	89.55	57.61
23	Punjab And Haryana	14.58	26.01	10.01
24	Rajasthan	19.80	34.72	60.88
25	Sikkim	1.71	8.98	2.51
26	Telangana	22.03	28.57	28.91

S. No.	High Court	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
27	Tripura	0.53	7.05	8.79
28	Uttarakhand	13.68	19.95	29.57
	Total	611.88	997.49	864.43*

** As on 09.02.2026*

Note: In addition to the funds released to High Courts, Rs. 185.06 crore have been released to NIC for providing technical support, Rs 54.79 crore to BSNL for WAN (Wide Area Network) connectivity, Rs 7.51 crore to e-Committee, SCI under Change Management, Rs 0.28 crore to IIT Madras for development of e-Learning platform, and Rs 9.42 crore for miscellaneous expenditure (salary, office expenses, publicity, etc.).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1549
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

JSL (APPTS)

ESTABLISHING HIGH COURT BENCH AT MEERUT

✓ 1549. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) whether there is any High Court bench in western UP region;
- (b) if not, the reasons for not establishing a bench of High Court at Meerut despite the fact that western UP generates more than 50 percent of cases but has disproportionately less judicial infrastructure compared to eastern UP; and
- (c) whether Government plans to establish a bench of High Court at Meerut since the litigants of western region are facing logistical hardships for so long?

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

At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government of India to establish a High Court Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1550
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

COVERAGE OF SAMVAD SCHEME

✓1550. # SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI:

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

SHRI BRIJ LAL:

SHRI MAYANKKUMAR NAYAK:

SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) the objectives and key components of SAMVAD – Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes scheme, 2025;
- (b) the manner in which it seeks to improve legal awareness, outreach and delivery of legal services for vulnerable communities;
- (c) the progress made during 2025 in terms of States/UTs covered, SAMVAD units established, legal awareness programmes conducted and beneficiaries assisted under the scheme; and
- (d) the details of monitoring framework, reporting timelines and future roadmap to scale up the scheme and address region specific justice delivery gaps?

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 NALSA SAMVAD (Strengthening Access to Justice for Marginalized, Vulnerable Adivasis and Denotified/Nomadic Tribes) Scheme, 2025, launched by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in April 2025, has been formulated to ensure effective access to justice for Scheduled Tribes (STs), Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), and De-Notified/ Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) who face systemic barriers in accessing legal remedies and welfare entitlements.

The Scheme provides for the creation of dedicated SAMVAD Units at the District level, identification of tribal communities in each Taluk, preparation of annual action plans, deployment of trained panel lawyers and para-legal volunteers from tribal areas, and provision of legal assistance in matters relating to land and forest rights, displacement, rehabilitation, documentation, welfare schemes, and social security.

- (b) : The NALSA SAMVAD Scheme, 2025 seeks to improve legal awareness, outreach and delivery of legal services for Vulnerable Adivasi and Denotified/Nomadic communities by adopting a community-based outreach-driven approach to improve legal awareness and delivery of services in remote and tribal areas. SAMVAD Units conduct legal awareness programmes in tribal habitations, door-to-door outreach, legal literacy sessions in local languages, legal services camps, and coordination with Gram Sabhas and local institutions.

The Scheme also focuses on early legal intervention, assistance in documentation and entitlement claims, and facilitation of access to government welfare schemes, thereby ensuring last-mile delivery of legal services in culturally sensitive and geographically inaccessible areas.

- (c) & (d): 690 SAMVAD Units have been constituted at the district level. This has enabled nationwide institutional coverage of the Scheme through State and District Legal Services Authorities.

The Scheme provides a structured monitoring and reporting framework under which quarterly reports are submitted by Taluk Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities, and State Legal Services Authorities in standardized formats prescribed under the Scheme. These reports are consolidated and reviewed by NALSA at the national level to ensure uniform implementation and accountability.

NALSA has also issued a revised roadmap for consolidated biennial reports from all State Legal Services Authorities.

The future roadmap includes strengthening data-driven monitoring, capacity building of SAMVAD Unit functionaries, enhanced outreach in PVTG and DNT dominated regions, and targeted interventions to address region-specific justice delivery gaps.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1551
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

35 (App'ts)
ESTABLISHING HIGH COURT BENCH IN SURAT

✓ 1551. # SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA:

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

- (a) whether Article 214 of the Constitution provides for a High Court for each State, while Section 51 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 provides for the establishment of benches away from the principal seat;
- (b) the details of benches of High Courts established in the States under the said provision; and
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration before Government for establishment of a bench of Gujarat High Court in Surat?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Article 214 of the Constitution of India provides that *“There shall be a High Court for each State”* while Section 51 of the States Re-Organisation Act, 1956 provides for *Principal seat and other places of sitting of High Courts for new States.*

The information regarding Benches of High Courts established in the States is at Annexure.

High Court Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P. (C) No. 379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the

Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court. The proposal to be complete should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State.

At present there is no complete proposal pending with the Government of India to establish a High Court Bench in Surat.

High Court Benches

Sl. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Permanent Bench and Date from which the Bench began functioning
1	Allahabad	Prayagraj	Uttar Pradesh	1. Lucknow (01.07.1948)
2	Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Andhra Pradesh	High Court w.e.f.1.1.2019
3	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra; Goa; UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	2. Nagpur (01.05.1960) 3. Panaji (01.07.1948) 4. Aurangabad(27.08.1984) 5. Kolhapur (Circuit Bench w.e. 18.08.2025)
4	Calcutta	Kolkata	West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	Circuit Benches- 5.Port Blair (2.5.1950) 6. Jalpaiguri (7.2.2019)
5	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	-
6	Delhi	New Delhi	NCT of Delhi	-
7	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, & Arunachal Pradesh	7. Kohima,(10.02.1990) 8. Aizawl, (05.07.1990) 9. Itanagar (12.08.2000)
8	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Jammu & Srinagar	UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	-
11	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	-
12	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	10. Dharwad (24.08.2008) 11. Gulbarga(31.08.2008) Previously functioned as Circuit Benches on 7.2.2008
13	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala & Lakshadweep Islands (UT)	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	12. Gwalior (01.11.1956) 13. Indore (01.11.1956)
15	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu & Puducherry (UT)	14. Madurai (24.07.2004)
16	Manipur	Imphal	Manipur	High Court w.e.f. 23.03.2013 Previously functioned as Pmt. Bench (21.01.1992)
17	Meghalaya	Shillong	Meghalaya	High Court w.e.f. 23.03.2013 Previously functioned as Pmt. Bench (04.02.1998)
18	Orissa	Cuttack	Odisha	-
19	Patna	Patna	Bihar	-
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana & Chandigarh (UT)	-
21	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	15. Jaipur (31.01.1977)
22	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	-
23	Telangana	Hyderabad	Telangana	-
24	Tripura	Agartala	Tripura	High Court w.e.f. 23.03.2013 Previously functioned as Pmt. Bench (10.05.1992)
25	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand	-

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1552
ANSWERED ON 12/02/2026

JSL App'ts
SITTINGS OF SUPREME COURT OUTSIDE DELHI

✓1552. DR. M. DHANAPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of Article 130 of the Constitution enabling the Supreme Court to sit at places other than New Delhi with the President's approval and whether Government has assessed regional sittings;
- (b) if so, the details of proposals or representations received by Government during the last five years seeking Supreme Court benches or sittings in southern India, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for examining such proposals with constitutional authorities and disclosing the status of consideration?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled "The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look", submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up

in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

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

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