

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022

SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JUDICIARY INFRASTRUCTURE

1728. SHRI RAMALINGAM S . :

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any framework and taken initiatives/steps to strengthen judicial infrastructure in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the subsequent action taken by the Government on the proposal of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India in this regard;
- (c) the details of the projects completed/ongoing under the Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary during the last three preceding years, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the grants given under Centrally Sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary during the last five years, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated a new policy to reduce the pending cases in both higher judiciary and lower judiciary and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): The primary responsibility of the development of infrastructure facilities for the judiciary rests with the State Governments. The Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. It covers the construction of court buildings and residential

accommodations for judicial officers of the district and subordinate judiciary. A sum of Rs. 9445.46 crores has been released under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6001.15 crores (63.53 %) has been released since 2014-15. The scheme has been extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crores including a central share of Rs. 5307.00 crores. Besides the construction of court halls and residential quarters, the scheme now also covers the construction of lawyers' halls, digital computer rooms, and toilet complexes in the district and subordinate Courts. 21,159 Court Halls and 18,557 residential accommodation have been made available for judicial officers of the District and Subordinate judiciary in the country. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction in various States.

(b) & (c): The proposal for setting up of National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India (NJIAI) was discussed in the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 30.04.2022, wherein it was resolved not to set up the National Body, and instead it was agreed to form a Committee for Judicial Infrastructure at the State Level in which the Chief Minister of State and Chief Justice of the High Court would be having their nominee and would be working in close coordination.

(c): As per information made available by the High Courts / State Governments, the State-wise details of number of Court Halls and Residential Units completed during the last three years is at ***Annexure-I***. The statement giving State-wise number of ongoing projects of Court Halls and Residential units under the Centrally Sponsored scheme for the Development of Infrastructure facilities for Judiciary as on 30.11.2022 is at ***Annexure-II***.

(d): The State-wise statement of funds released during the last five years is at ***Annexure-III***.

(e): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, an increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

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

(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 9291.79 crores have been released since the inception of the

Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crores, out of which the central share will be Rs. 5,307 crores. Besides, the construction of court halls and residential units, it would also cover the construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes, and digital computer rooms. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects

(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: The Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized district and subordinate courts. All stakeholders, including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district & subordinate courts and high courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through the eCourts web portal,

Judicial Service Centers (JSC) in all computerized courts, the eCourts Mobile App, email service, and SMS push, and pull services. A video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handling the COVID- 19 challenges better and making the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 619 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, and Rajasthan to try traffic offences. As on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 additional judges were made permanent in the high courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been

increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1108 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
06.12.2022	24,994	19,205

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

(iv) **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in high courts and district courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of states drawing their attention to the cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department of Justice has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

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

(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in states which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2022, 838 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme Rs. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

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

(viii) Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at

pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last two years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
Total	3,82,21,509	1,64,92,538	5,47,14,047

(ix) The government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App. The number of legal advise so rendered as on 30.11.2022 is tabulated below:

Category	Total Advice Enabled	%
SC	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%

(x) Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform.

Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Court Halls Completed			Total	Residential Units Completed			Total
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3	0	3	6	0	2	2	4
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	18	0	0	18	11	0	0	11
5	Bihar	51	24	31	106	24	12	36	72
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	0	18	8	26	8	2	22	32
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	54	24	0	78	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	28	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Haryana	0	8	14	22	0	0	4	4
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
15	Jammu and Kashmir	5	1	0	6	5	1	0	6
16	Jharkhand	39	0	0	39	0	0	0	0
17	Karnataka	154	65	87	306	82	21	9	112
18	Kerala	0	15	0	15	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	32	34	22	88	73	104	20	197
22	Maharashtra	182	0	0	182	24	0	1	25
23	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
26	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
27	Odisha	53	35	51	139	24	14	25	63
28	Puducherry	0	7	0	7	0	6	0	6
29	Punjab	34	7	0	41	0	9	0	9
30	Rajasthan	70	43	15	128	28	7	18	53
31	Sikkim	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
32	Tamil Nadu	42	50	8	100	24	10	6	40
33	Telangana	10	12	12	34	1	0	0	1
34	Tripura	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	0
35	Uttar Pradesh	55	0	150	205	21	0	75	96
36	Uttarakhand	0	0	6	6	0	0	7	7
37	West Bengal	8	0	0	8	17	0	0	17
TOTAL		841	343	420	1604	345	188	225	758

ANNEXURE-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.**

Sl. No.	State	Under Construction Court Halls	Under Construction Residential Units
1	Andhra Pradesh	99	16
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	3
3	Assam	99	6
4	Bihar	86	82
5	Chandigarh	1	0
6	Chhattisgarh	21	434
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	3	0
9	Delhi	50	70
10	Goa	28	0
11	Gujarat	140	29
12	Haryana	75	65
13	Himachal Pradesh	14	1
14	Jammu And Kashmir	46	8
15	Jharkhand	0	0
16	Karnataka	144	84
17	Kerala	62	18
18	Madhya Pradesh	409	147
19	Maharashtra	498	73
20	Manipur	8	0
21	Meghalaya	30	97
22	Mizoram	26	6
23	Nagaland	12	2
24	Odisha	53	56
25	Puducherry	0	0
26	Punjab	72	36
27	Rajasthan	192	131
28	Sikkim	0	0
29	Tamil Nadu	0	0
30	Telangana	45	6
31	Tripura	8	6
32	Uttar Pradesh	289	251
33	Uttarakhand	70	3
34	West Bengal	91	32
Total		2673	1662

ANNEXURE-III**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1728 FOR REPLY ON 16.12.2022.***(in Rs. crore)*

Sl. No.	State	Release in 2017-18	Release in 2018-19	Release in 2019-20	Release in 2020-21	Release in 2021-22	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	10.00	20.00	10.28	0.00	40.28
2	Bihar	42.90	62.04	87.62	65.72	0.00	258.28
3	Chhattisgarh	0.00	19.68	19.83	7.84	0.00	47.35
4	Goa	0.00	3.15	4.06	3.80	3.20	14.21
5	Gujarat	50.00	15.02	16.49	13.50	0.00	95.01
6	Haryana	15.00	11.91	14.06	22.00	0.00	62.97
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	4.08	5.72	5.50	0.00	15.30
8	Jammu & Kashmir	10.00	19.01	10.00			39.01
9	Jharkhand	50.00	9.59	13.74	9.05	6.00	88.38
10	Karnataka	50.00	38.12	44.04	29.72	27.00	188.88
11	Kerala	25.00	30.82	15.82	13.00	50.00	134.64
12	Madhya Pradesh	50.00	79.42	66.90	45.60	55.00	296.92
13	Maharashtra	50.00	10.58	61.09	23.11	18.00	162.78
14	Odisha	0.00	22.50	35.69	0.00	0.00	58.19
15	Punjab	50.00	26.47	39.78	16.48	16.50	149.23
16	Rajasthan	17.34	17.41	64.21	29.90	41.50	170.36
17	Tamil Nadu	0.00	6.09	38.71	18.17	35.66	98.63
18	Telangana	0.00	10.00	5.65	16.00	0.00	31.65
19	Uttarakhand	25.00	22.02	28.50	5.86	80.00	161.38
20	Uttar Pradesh	75.00	128.06	169.66	111.00	219.00	702.72
21	West Bengal	17.34	35.22	61.43	31.07	0.00	145.06
	Total (A)	527.58	581.19	823.00	477.60	551.86	2961.23
North Eastern States							
1	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.69	5.00	4.09	11.78
2	Assam	20.00	32.09	36.54	25.00	27.40	141.03
3	Manipur	0.00	8.87	9.66	5.00	0.00	23.53
4	Meghalaya	8.63	14.82	22.85	7.71	28.02	82.03
5	Mizoram	20.00	5.94	5.24	5.00	9.50	45.68
6	Nagaland	20.00	3.21	3.42	5.00	13.27	44.90
7	Sikkim	0.00	2.57	2.78	2.95	0.00	8.30
8	Tripura	0.00	0.00	18.82	7.74	0.00	26.56
	Total (B)	68.63	67.50	102.00	63.40	82.28	383.81
Union Territories							
1	A & N Islands	0.00	1.31	0.17	0.35	0.00	1.83
2	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Delhi	25.00	0.00	48.52	45.00	30.00	148.52
6	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	3.31	0.00	0.00	3.31
8	Jammu and Kashmir			5.00	6.65	20.00	31.65
9	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (C)	25.00	1.31	57.00	52.00	50.00	185.31
	Grand Total (A+B+C)	621.21	650.00	982.00	593.00	684.14	3530.35

