

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4018
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24TH MARCH, 2023**

CASES PENDING IN SC AND HCS

†4018. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

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

- (a) the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court (SC) as on 1st of March 2023;**
- (b) the details of pending cases in High Courts (HCs) across the country as on 1st of March 2023; and**
- (c) the details of the steps taken/plans being formulated by the Government to reduce the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): As per data retrieved from Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), the number of pending cases as on 01st March, 2023 at Supreme Court of India is 69,379. As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), details of pending cases in High Courts, across the country as on 1st of March 2023 is given under *Annexure*.

(c): While disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the exclusive domain of the judiciary, and the Central Government has no direct role in the matter, several steps

have been taken as detailed below, in collaboration with all the stakeholders including judiciary to facilitate reduction in pendency.

- i.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 9755.51 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 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, under this scheme.
- ii.** Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT 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 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 689 e-SewaKendras 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

- iii. Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1114 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
21.03.2023	25,189	19,522

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

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission ,the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.01.2023, 843 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. 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.
- vi. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the

Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

- vii.** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted wholeheartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- viii.** Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

- 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.

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

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	11,46,046	33.43	11,23,504	33.49
Male	22,82,642	66.57	22,31,041	66.51
Caste Category Wise				
General	7,31,346	21.33	7,12,646	21.24
OBC	10,08,050	29.40	9,83,336	29.31
SC	10,86,611	31.69	10,66,037	31.78
ST	6,02,681	17.58	5,92,526	17.66
Total	34,28,688		33,54,545	

- 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 (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4018 FOR ANSWER ON 24.03.2023 REGARDING 'CASES PENDING IN SC AND HCS'.

Pendency in High Court as on 01.03.2023		
Sl.No	High Court	Total No. of Cases
1	Allahabad High Court	1029326
2	Bombay High Court	685727
3	Calcutta High Court	206501
4	Gauhati High Court	58576
5	High Court for state of Telangana	252339
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	242280
7	High Court of Chattisgarh	91812
8	High Court of Delhi	106391
9	High Court of Gujarat	161480
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	92133
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44663
12	High Court of Jharkhand	86388
13	High Court of Karnataka	304553
14	High Court of Kerala	194559
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	431508
16	High Court of Manipur	4942
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1165
18	High Court of Orissa	156570
19	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	440784
20	High Court of Rajasthan	642720
21	High Court of Sikkim	173
22	High Court of Tripura	1366
23	High Court of Uttarakhand	46115
24	Madras High Court	551552
25	Patna High Court	212647
Total		6046270

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).