

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1439
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

Disposal of Cases in Virtual Courts

1439. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARISINGH DEO:

DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:

SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI SELVAM G.:

SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL:

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:

SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:

SHRI GAUTAM GAMBHIR:

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJUBHAIYA):

DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of virtual courts functioning in the country and the number of cases handled/disposed of by them during the last three years and current year;
- (b) whether present infrastructure is adequate for smooth functioning of virtual courts, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether courts are moving towards virtual courts using indigenously developed software system for secured transmission of cases with courts and counsels having options for accessing them, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has organized any training/awareness campaigns regarding their functioning, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has invited proposal for research and study for starting 24/7 virtual courts to dispose of cases other than traffic challans, if so, the details, aims and objectives thereof; and
- (f) whether there is need for reducing physical presence of advocates and litigants to save judicial time, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c) : The software for virtual courts has been developed indigenously by National Informatics Centre (NIC) eCourts division, Pune. Over 3.26 crore cases (3,26,14,617) have been handled by 22 virtual courts and in more than 39 lakhs (39,16,405) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crore have been realized till 30.06.2023. The detail breakup of cases dealt through virtual courts across India is at Annexure- I.As on 30.06.2023, there are 22 such courts in 18 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

(d) : The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted training programmes including training for virtual courts, which have covered nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

(e) : Yes. The proposals have been invited under the “Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms” for exploring the scope of expansion for virtual courts as part of Indian justice delivery system.

(f) : The virtual courts initiative has enabled adjudication of traffic violation cases on a virtual platform, eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest the claims 24X7, thus saving time and resources for both the court system and the

litigants. Virtual courts also eliminates physical presence of offender/violator in the court. It reduces the number of judges performing judicial work in adjudicating traffic challans. Electronic traffic challans are automatically filed in virtual court for adjudication. A Judge can access the Virtual Court application from anywhere or any part of the state, view the cases and adjudicate the cases online.

To eliminate the physical presence of advocates and litigants to save judicial time the following initiatives has been taken by eCourts Mission Mode Project:

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders / judgments (as on 03.07.2023).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to

lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.88 crore downloads till 30.06.2023) and JustIS app for judges (19,164 downloads till 30.06.2023).

- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 1,98,67,081 cases while the High Courts heard 78,69,708 cases (totalling 2.77 crore) till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Guwahati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 30.06.2023.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. A total of 20 High Courts have

implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 30.06.2023.

- x. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing eCourts services etc.
- xi. In addition to eSewa Kendras, as part of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme the Government of India has launched Tele Law program since 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 Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.
- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1439 for 28/07/2023 regarding the detailbreakup of cases dealt through Virtual Courts across the country are as under:

StatisticsofVirtualCourts-30.06.2023						
S.No	Establishment_Name	Received	ProceedingDone	Contested	PaidChallans	ChallanAmount
1	ASSAMTRAFFICDEPARTMENT	72415	72413	357	19022	13159081
2	CHHATTISGARH TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	101	87	0	37	81500
3	GUJARATTRAFFIC DEPARTMENT	126716	74647	82	2718	171300
4	HARYANA TRAFFICDEPARTME NT	821765	681342	1080	16992	12638701
5	HIMACHALPRADESHTRAFFICDEP ARTMENT	81631	57247	86	1954	4011753
6	JAMMUTRAFFICDEPARTMENT	157590	136152	880	38613	21420590
7	KARNATAKA TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	47857	47824	119	40576	338437490
8	KASHMIR TRAFFICDEPARTM ENT	356434	356433	9300	75231	41025995
9	KERALA(POLICEDEPARTMENT)	635792	625069	1280	54717	28393893
10	KERALA TRANSPORTDEPARTM ENT	485190	476054	2971	79969	115151882
11	MADHYA PRADESH TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	46581	36028	57	1853	1315300
12	MAHARASHTRA TRANSPORTDEPARTMENT	40387	24349	20	1449	2348605
13	MEGHALAYA TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	437	314	0	33	20000
14	NOTICEBRANCHDELHITR AFFICDEPARTMENT	14133187	13712402	77223	1344606	954951505
15	OdishaTrafficCTC- BBSRCCOMMISSIONERAT E	333416	307908	627	20615	19894001
16	PUNETRAFFICDEPARTMENT	6080	6056	18	591	114250
17	RAJASTHAN TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	26497	23650	892	9708	6276170
18	TAMIL NADU TRAFFICDEPARTMENT	162337	143042	1333	78188	718829890
19	TRIPURATRAFFICDEPARTMENT	354	353	1	4	2900
20	UTTARPRADESHTRAFFICDE PARTMENT	10238520	7569945	28769	501614	298422756
21	VIRTUAL COURT DELHI(TRAFFIC)	4773216	4734431	105500	1624555	1618662492
22	WESTBENGALTRAFFICDE	67940	64293	76	3360	2039452

	PARTMENT					
	Total	32614443	29150039	230671	3916405	4198908506