

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1229
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

POCSO COURTS

1229. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

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

- (a) the number of POCSO courts, State-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the details of the progress made by POCSO courts in last five years;
- (c) the number of POCSO courts that have Video Conferencing system, State-wise;
- (d) the number of Judicial Magistrate courts that are equipped with audio-video facilities for recording statements of child victims under POCSO, State-wise; and
- (e) the number of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards?

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) & (b) : Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in a time-bound manner. As per the data submitted by High Courts, 757 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.12.2023. These courts have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme, while more than 2,02,000 cases are pending.

Against the initial mandate of setting up 389 e-POCSO courts, 411 e-POCSO Courts have been made functional across the country. These courts have disposed of more than 1,38,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme, while more than 1,34,945 cases remain pending as on 31.12.2023. State-wise total number of functional exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts along with the cumulative disposal and pendency of e-POCSO cases since the inception of the Scheme are given at **Annexure -I**.

(c) & (d) : In e-Courts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalized between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In e-Courts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (High Court wise details attached at **Annexure-II**). Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (High Court wise details attached at **Annexure-III**). Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes. These VC facilities are available in the Court Complexes for the use of all courts, including FTSC and e-Pocso courts.

India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts, till 31.12.2023, have heard 2,17,99,976 cases using video conferencing system. Funds amounting to Rs.5.012 crore and Rs.28.886 crore have also been released for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipments for 14,443 courtrooms, respectively.

(e) : FTSCs have adopted the approach of setting up Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres within the court complexes for facilitation of the victims and making the courts child-friendly thereby providing crucial support for a compassionate legal system. The State/UT-wise details of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards are given at **Annexure -IV**.

**Annexures as referred to in Reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred
Question No. 1229 for 9th February, 2024**

Annexure-I

State/UT-wise functional e-POCSO courts and cumulative disposal of e-POCSO cases as of
December, 2023

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal of e-POCSO cases since the inception of the Scheme	Cumulative Pendency of e-POCSO cases
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	4083	7231
2	Assam	17	17	4979	5207
3	Bihar	46	46	9939	17716
4	Chandigarh	1	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	3614	1809
6	Delhi	16	11	1034	2744
7	Goa	1	0	34	0
8	Gujarat	35	24	8273	4843
9	Haryana	16	12	3982	3100
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	967	383
11	J&K	4	2	70	324
12	Jharkhand	22	16	3809	3278
13	Karnataka	31	17	5894	3145
14	Kerala	54	14	5165	2148
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	20092	7671
16	Maharashtra	19	10	10221	2010
17	Manipur	2	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5	382	1061
19	Mizoram	3	1	48	34
20	Nagaland	1	0	3	0
21	Odisha	44	23	7950	6930
22	Puducherry	1	1	44	221
23	Punjab	12	3	1902	429
24	Rajasthan	45	30	9009	5016
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14	6228	4440
26	Telangana	36	0	2731	0
27	Tripura	3	1	184	73
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	0	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	28283	52184
30	West Bengal	3	3	48	2948
	TOTAL	757	411	138968	134945

Annexure-II**High Court-wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms***

Sl. No.	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipments already provided	Number of additional equipments to be provided
1	Allahabad	2438	150	2288
2	Andhra Pradesh	550	212	338
3	Bombay	2178	486	1692
4	Calcutta	840	88	752
5	Chhattisgarh	395	90	305
6	Delhi	479	6	473
7	Gauhati	442	194	248
8	Gujarat	1078	327	751
9	Himachal Pradesh	135	43	92
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	86	132
11	Jharkhand	417	28	389
12	Karnataka	1029	200	829
13	Kerala	508	159	349
14	Madhya Pradesh	1274	203	1071
15	Madras	1169	267	902
16	Manipur	38	37	1
17	Meghalaya	36	64	0
18	Orissa	688	141	547
19	Patna	1046	76	970
20	Punjab & Haryana	972	118	854
21	Rajasthan	1239	238	1001
22	Sikkim	21	17	4
23	Telangana	440	129	311
24	Tripura	78	66	12
25	Uttarakhand	184	52	132
	TOTAL	17892	3477	14443

*Total estimated cost for VC equipments for 14443 court rooms is Rs. 28.886 crore

Annexure-III**High Court-wise details for VC Cabins and Connectivity in Court Complexes****

Sl. No.	High Court	Number of VC Cabins
1	Allahabad	438
2	Andhra Pradesh	57
3	Bombay	271
4	Calcutta	128
5	Chhattisgarh	58
6	Delhi	103
7	Gauhati	77
8	Gujarat	94
9	Himachal Pradesh	18
10	Jammu & Kashmir	34
11	Jharkhand	78
12	Karnataka	128
13	Kerala	52
14	Madhya Pradesh	169
15	Madras	140
16	Manipur	12
17	Meghalaya	11
18	Orissa	84
19	Patna	171
20	Punjab & Haryana	135
21	Rajasthan	143
22	Sikkim	11
23	Telangana	52
24	Tripura	17
25	Uttarakhand	25
TOTAL		2506

**Total estimated cost for equipment for VC cabins is Rs.5.012 crore

Annexure-IV

State-wise status of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of POCSO courts that have been equipped with vulnerable witness safeguards
1	Andhra Pradesh	Temporary set up at ADR Centre with video conferencing system/ audio video linkage till permanent VWDCs are established and made functional
2	Assam	10
3	Bihar	42
4	Chandigarh	1
5	Chhattisgarh	36
6	Delhi	35
7	Goa	0
8	Gujarat	26
9	Haryana	14
10	Himachal Pradesh	6
11	J&K	7
12	Jharkhand	19
13	Karnataka	31
14	Kerala	18
15	Madhya Pradesh	Arrangements have been made in ADR building/child-friendly court/mediation centre
16	Maharashtra	128
17	Manipur	0
18	Meghalaya	9
19	Mizoram	7
20	Nagaland	1
21	Odisha	30
22	Puducherry	Data not provided
23	Punjab	11
24	Rajasthan	55
25	Tamil Nadu	Data not provided
26	Telangana	69
27	Tripura	6
28	Uttar Pradesh	Interim arrangements have been made in all districts.
29	Uttarakhand	4
30	West Bengal	10