

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAW AND JUSTICE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:92  
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2009  
SETTING UP OF E COURTS  
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) the estimated number of courts required to address the increasing number of litigations in the country;
- (b) the status of setting up of e-courts to help reduce bottlenecks in judicial system and making justice available to the masses in the country at a quicker pace;
- (c) the action plan of the Government to speed up this project; and
- (d) the further steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

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

STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 92 TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 2009

(a) There is no data available on the estimated number of courts required to address the increasing number of litigations in the country. However, the Law Commission in its 120th Report, recommended that the strength of judges per one million population may be increased from 10.5 to 50.

With regard to subordinate judiciary, the Supreme Court, in its judgment of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges' Association & Ors Vs. Union of India & Ors, directed that an increase in the Judge strength from the existing 10.5 or 13 per 10 lakh people to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented within a period of five years in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of law. The Central Government have filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court praying that the increase in judge strength in the Union Territories, for which Central Government is administratively responsible, be allowed based on workload and pendency of cases. The matter is sub-judice.

(b) Phase I of the E-courts project is presently under implementation. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency for this project. Under the project, 13,365 Judicial Officers have so far been provided with laptops, 56720 Judicial Officers and Court staff have been trained in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and 12599 laser printers have been supplied to the courts. Site preparation work in the court complexes identified by the High Courts is under process for setting up server rooms/service centres. Computer hardware has been delivered at a total of 12 High Courts. Local Area Network (LAN) Survey has been completed for High Courts. Purchase order issuance is under process for LAN. For supply of technical manpower at District Court, 190 candidates have been trained and deployed across the district courts under 11 High Courts. 2.7 candidates have been trained and deployed across 11 High Courts. Internet connectivity has been provided through Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited at 486 District Courts and 1272 Taluka Court complexes. In addition, internet connections have also been provided at the home offices of 10744 Judicial Officers. For development of Software Application, the base version of the application has been decided and is now being tested in 8 locations. For site preparation, estimates have been received for approx. 2200 court complexes. An amount of Rs. 38.64 crore has been transferred to States for site preparation. 499 District Courts complexes have so far reported site preparation work as completed across various High Courts. A grant of Rs.212.95 crore has been provided to NIC till 31.03.2009 for the implementation of the scheme.

(c) & (d): The government is formulating a revised proposal for the E-Courts Projects with revised cost estimates and redefined timelines for obtaining approval of the competent authority.