

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3109

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

PENDING COURT CASES

Kataria Shri Rattan Lal; Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

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

- (a) the total number of pending criminal and civil cases in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country as on date;
- (b) the percentage of pending execution orders out of these;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reform / amend the Civil Procedure Code for efficient disposal of execution orders and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRID. V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) to (d): The data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information available in Court News (Vol. IX, Issue No.1), a quarterly newsletter of Supreme Court, 52,119 civil cases and 12,211 criminal cases were pending as on 31.03.2014 in Supreme Court. 34.32 lakh civil cases and 10.23 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2013 in various High Courts. In District and Subordinate Courts, 82.78 lakh civil cases and 185.60 lakh criminal cases were pending as on 31.12.2013. Information of pending execution orders is not separately available in the above publication.

At present, there is no proposal to amend the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 relating to execution of decree and orders. The major initiatives taken by the Government for pendency reduction relate to Infrastructure Development for Subordinate Judiciary and Computerization of Courts. The Central Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,198 crores to State Governments and Union Territories for upgradation/ construction of court complexes and residential units for judicial officers in the last three years. Under the eCourts Project 13,323 courts have been computerized by 31st October, 2014. Computerization of courts would enable the courts to exercise greater control over management of cases in the docket. It will also provide designated services to the litigants and the lawyers. In order to reduce government litigation in courts the Central Government has encouraged the States to notify their litigation policies which contain provisions for weeding out infructuous cases and promote dispute resolution through alternative mechanisms. The Government has also identified the areas prone to excessive litigation for adopting suitable policy and legislative measures to curb such litigation. As a result of the concerted efforts made by all stake-holders the increasing trend of pendency of cases in subordinate courts has been checked.