

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 686

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 05th FEBRUARY, 2020.

Pending Court Cases

686. SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI T.R.BAALU:

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

- (a) whether there is huge backlog of pending cases in courts;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of civil and criminal cases pending in District Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court across the country including West Bengal as on date alongwith the stages of most of the pending cases;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to accelerate the judicial process and expedite adjudication of the cases pertaining to social issues and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is facing major challenges in the Indian judicial system; and
- (e) if so, the measures taken by the Government to create a citizen centric legal systems?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): As per data available on the website of Supreme Court, 59,859 cases are pending in the Supreme Court of India as on 02.01.2020. As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as on 29.01.2020, about 3.19 crore cases are pending in the District & Subordinate Courts. The details of cases pending in the District & Subordinate Courts, State-wise, including in the State of West Bengal, is given in the **Annexure-I**. As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), 45.81 lakh cases are pending in High Courts. The details of cases pending in various High Courts including Calcutta High Court, is given in the **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d): Disposal of cases in courts is within the domain of judiciary. Challenges faced for timely disposal of cases in courts , *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures.

However, the Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases including cases pertaining to social issues. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (a) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 7,453.10 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs.4, 008.80 crores (which is 53.79% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,632 as on 29.01.2020 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,412 as on 29.01.2020 under this scheme. In addition, 2,713 court halls and 1,893 residential units are under construction.
- (b) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Currently, case status information in respect of over 12.97 crore pending and

disposed cases and more than 11.15 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts is available on NJDG. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails.

- (c) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 30.01.2020, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 515 new Judges were appointed and 435 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 1079 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
29.01.2020	23,782	18,812

- (d) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees: In pursuance of resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (e) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement 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.
- (f) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in

the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 30.09.2019, 704 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 26 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 648 FTSCs including 363 exclusive POCSO courts. Rs.99.35 crore (out of the total allocation of Rs.100 crore) has already been released as the first installment to these 26 States.

(e): Through computerization of 16,845 District & Subordinate Courts and ICT enablement under the eCourts Project Phase-II, several services have been provided to litigants, lawyers and Judiciary which facilitate expeditious delivery of judicial services. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Integration of eCourts Services through Common Service Centers (CSCs) has been successfully completed. eCourt CNR Service has been enabled through Digital Seva Portal in all CSC locations across the country. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts, created as an online platform under the Project, provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Currently, all stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access case status information in respect of over 12.97 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 11.15 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

Annexure - I

Details of cases pending in the District & Subordinate Courts, State-wise [as on 29.01.2020]

Sl. No	Name of States/UTs	Pending Cases (Civil)	Pending Cases (Criminal)	Total Number of Cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts\$\$
1.	A & N Island	-----	-----	-----

2.	Andhra Pradesh	310520	254173	564693
3.	Telangana	245477	320930	566407
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	-----	-----	-----
5.	Assam	68310	229062	297372
6.	Bihar	400260	2475453	2875713
7.	Chandigarh	18242	30020	48262
8.	Chhattisgarh	57124	222286	279410
9.	D & N Haveli	1421	1612	3033
10.	Daman & Diu	1156	1154	2310
11.	Delhi	200714	665551	866265
12.	Goa	13614	11199	24813
13.	Gujarat	428268	1183091	1611359
14.	Haryana	314158	554962	869120
15.	Himachal Pradesh	123147	167318	290465
16.	Jammu & Kashmir	73843	103411	177254
17.	Jharkhand	68734	317330	386064
18.	Karnataka	744877	810740	1555617
19.	Kerala	402141	892769	1294910
20.	Ladakh	155	295	450
21.	Lakshadweep	-----	-----	-----
22.	Madhya Pradesh	330157	1119226	1449383
23.	Maharashtra	1232698	2533702	3766400
24.	Manipur	6106	3720	9826
25.	Meghalaya	2366	6481	8847
26.	Mizoram	1161	1383	2544
27.	Nagaland	-----	-----	-----
28.	Orissa	262517	982315	1244832
29.	Punjab	276208	363475	639683
30.	Rajasthan	435695	1263473	1699168
31.	Sikkim	527	775	1302
32.	Tamil Nadu	651866	501396	1153262
33.	Puducherry	-----	-----	-----
34.	Tripura	7559	17550	25109
35.	Uttar Pradesh	1743565	5947401	7690966
36.	Uttarakhand	34760	173251	208011
37.	West Bengal	513611	1776853	2290464
Total		8970957	22932357	31903314

Note: Data on District and Subordinate Courts in the States of **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland,** and Union Territories of **Lakshadweep** and **Puducherry** are not available on the web-portal of NJDG. Data in respect of **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** is not available on NJDG Portal

Annexure -II

Details of cases pending in various High Courts [as on 29.01.2020]

SI. No	Name of High Courts	Pending Cases (Civil)	Pending Cases (Criminal)	Writs	Number of Cases pending in High Courts
1.	Allahabad High Court	157303	327480	247456	732239
2.	Calcutta High Court	21708	198	0	21906
3.	Gauhati High Court	18056	9374	20139	47569
4.	High Court for the State of	84687	30769	104293	219749

	Telangana				
5.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	70264	30485	95804	196553
6.	High Court of Bombay	167890	31266	68653	267809
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh	19924	27192	23117	70233
8.	High Court of Delhi	33291	21014	25742	80047
9.	High Court of Gujarat	42888	40754	46338	129980
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	32473	7910	18163	58546
11.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir	39770	8142	27701	75613
12.	High Court of Jharkhand	15724	43220	24755	83699
13.	High Court of Karnataka	138798	34964	74523	248285
14.	High Court of Kerala	86827	45217	66695	198739
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	119334	136191	105560	361085
16.	High Court of Manipur	3462	344	0	3806
17.	High Court of Meghalaya	433	96	585	1114
18.	High Court of Punjab & Haryana	219488	208805	113227	541520
19.	High Court of Rajasthan	215790	122203	134248	472241
20.	High Court of Sikkim	78	59	100	237
21.	High Court of Tripura	883	402	1088	2373
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand	25370	14689	1	40060
23.	Madras High Court	257953	45145	100078	403176
24.	Orissa High Court	40633	43962	66816	151411
25.	Patna High Court	95047	78582	0	173629
Total		1908074	1308463	1365082	4581619
