

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1034  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**PENDING CASES**

**†1034. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:  
SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:**

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

- (a) the details of various schemes being implemented by the Ministry;**
- (b) the details of total number and types of courts in the country, State and district-wise;**
- (c) the total number of judges serving in the country and the number of judicial vacancies thereof across the country, State/UT-wise;**
- (d) the number of cases pending in the country as on date including the measures taken by the Government for expeditious disposal of cases, State/UT-wise including West Bengal;**
- (e) whether all the courts in the country have been computerized and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the number of advocates in State Courts, High Courts and the Supreme Courts, State/UT-wise?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): The details of various schemes being implemented by the Ministry is at *Annexure– I*.

(b): As per the hierarchy of courts in the country, the Supreme Court of India is the apex court vested with original, appellate and advisory jurisdiction by the Constitution. The High Courts in each State or group of States are at the helm of the State's judicial system

with original, appellate and other jurisdictions as vested by the Constitution. The High Courts also have powers of superintendence over all Courts within its jurisdiction. The list of High Courts is at *Annexure-II*. The District and Sessions courts are the highest judicial court at the district level. The District and Sessions courts exercise direct supervision over the Subordinate Courts that deal with civil and criminal matters. The list of District and Subordinate Court Complexes is at *Annexure-III*.

(c): The details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of judges in the Supreme Court & High Court and District & Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure – IV & Annexure – V* respectively.

(d): The details of pendency of cases in the country is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Courts	Pendency as on
1	Supreme Court of India	70,038 (08.11.2021)*
2	High Courts	56,42,858 (29.11.2021)**
3	District & Subordinate Courts	3,79,42,466 (29.11.2021)**
4	West Bengal	
	High Court	2,26,427(30.11.2021)**
	District & Subordinate Courts	25,51,939 (30.11.2021)**

Source

\*Website of Supreme Court of India.

\*\*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, 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. There are

several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

The major steps taken during the last six years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 8,709.77 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,565 as on 31.10.2021 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,142 as on 31.10.2021 under this scheme. In addition, 2,841 court halls and 1,807 residential units are under construction. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5307

crores. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

**(ii) 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 to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. 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). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 crore order/judgements pertaining to these courts. 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. With a view to handle the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-Sewa Kendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 01.11.2021, these courts have handled more than 99 lakh cases and realised more than Rs.193.15 crore in fines.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court had 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021.

**(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 29.11.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 688 new Judges were appointed and 583 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 1098 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
29.11.2021	24,485	19,294

However, filling up of vacancies in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

**(iv) 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. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**: Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

(vi) **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 31.10.2021, 914 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). 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, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

(vii) In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(e): The e-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project was launched with the objective of improving access to justice using technology. The Phase I of eCourts concluded in 2014 in which 13,672 Court sites were computerized. Phase II of the project started in 2015, under which 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerized so far.

(f): As per information maintained by Bar Council of India, at present 18,57,623 advocates are registered with them. The details are at **Annexure-VI**.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

**(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary** - The Department of Justice has been implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Districts and Subordinate Judiciary since 1993-94. Under the Scheme, the central assistance is provided to the State Governments / UT Administrations for construction of court halls and residential units for Judicial Officers / Judges of District and Subordinate Courts. The funds sharing pattern under the Scheme for Center and State is 60:40 in respect of States other than North Eastern and Himalayan States. The funds sharing pattern is 90:10 in respect of North Eastern and Himalayan States; and 100% in respect of Union Territories.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9000 crores, out of which Central share will be Rs. 5357 crores including Rs.50 crore allocation for Gram Nyayalaya Scheme. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyer's Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

**(ii) Gram Nyayalayas** - To provide access to justice to the citizen at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. The State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with the respective High Courts. Under the



Central Government's Scheme of 'Assistance to States for Establishing and Operationalising Gram Nyayalayas', the financial assistance is sanctioned only after the issue of notification for establishing Gram Nyayalayas by the respective State governments and their operationalisation. The scheme has since been extended by the Government for five years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.50 crores.

**(iii) Designing Innovative Solutions and Holistic Approaches on Access to Justice (DISHA)** - The Department of Justice, has formulated a scheme namely **“Designing Innovative Solutions and Holistic Approaches on Access to Justice (DISHA)”** for the period 2021-2026 to enable access to justice and legal aid to common citizens. DISHA amalgamates different Access to Justice components like Nyaya Bandhu, Nyaya Mitra and Tele law being executed by Department of Justice to bridge the gaps in justice delivery besides providing for Legal literacy and Legal awareness programmes at Pan India level.

**(iv) Scheme for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts** – The Department of Justice is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) scheme started in October, 2019 for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including Exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act, in furtherance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 and the direction of Hon'ble Supreme court of India in Suo Moto 1/2019 dated 25.07.2019. The project cost was of Rs. 767.25 crore with Central Support of Rs. 474 crore under Nirbhaya Fund for 1 year spread over 2 FYs (2019-20 and 2020-21). The Scheme has been extended for further two years from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2023 at a total cost of Rs. 1572.86 crore with Central share of Rs. 971.70 crore.

**(v) eCourts Mission Mode Project-** As part of National eGovernance Plan, eCourts project begun in 2007 based on National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of ICT in Indian judiciary. The Government of India implemented 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 to 18,735. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. 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). Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. Funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-Sewa Kendras at court complexes. Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs to try traffic offences.

**Annexure – II**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021  
REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of High Courts</b>
1.	Allahabad High Court
2.	Calcutta High Court
3.	Gauhati High Court
4.	High Court for the State of Telangana
5.	High Court of Andhra Pradesh
6.	High Court of Bombay
7.	High Court of Chhattisgarh
8.	High Court of Delhi
9.	High Court of Gujarat
10.	High Court of Himachal Pradesh
11.	High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
12.	High Court of Jharkhand
13.	High Court of Karnataka
14.	High Court of Kerala
15.	High Court of Madhya Pradesh
16.	High Court of Manipur
17.	High Court of Meghalaya
18.	High Court of Punjab & Haryana
19.	High Court of Rajasthan
20.	High Court of Sikkim
21.	High Court of Tripura
22.	High Court of Uttarakhand
23.	Madras High Court
24.	Orissa High Court
25.	Patna High Court

**Annexure – III****STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021**

Sr No	State	Total Districts	Total Court Complexes
1	Andaman and Nicobar	1	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	187
3	Assam	30	71
4	Bihar	37	79
5	Chandigarh	1	2
6	Chhattisgarh	23	89
7	Delhi	11	12
8	Diu and Daman	2	2
9	DNH at Silvassa	1	2
10	Goa	2	16
11	Gujarat	32	332
12	Haryana	21	58
13	Himachal Pradesh	11	50
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20	81
15	Jharkhand	24	24
16	Karnataka	30	204
17	Kerala	15	165
18	Ladakh	2	3
19	Madhya Pradesh	50	225
20	Maharashtra	40	478
21	Manipur	9	20
22	Meghalaya	9	10
23	Mizoram	3	9
24	Nagaland	4	5
25	Orissa	30	122
26	Punjab	22	68
27	Rajasthan	36	311
28	Sikkim	4	9
29	Tamil Nadu	32	265
30	Telangana	10	110
31	Tripura	8	24
32	Uttar Pradesh	74	169
33	Uttarakhand	13	61
34	West Bengal	22	89
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>646</b>	<b>3356</b>

**REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021 REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

**Statement showing sanctioned strength, working strength of the judges in the Supreme Court and High Court as on 29.11.2021**

		Sanctioned strength			Working strength			Vacancies		
<b>A.</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	<b>34</b>			<b>33</b>			<b>1</b>		
<b>B.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>Pmt.</b>	<b>Addl</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pmt.</b>	<b>Addl</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pmt.</b>	<b>Addl</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Allahabad	120	40	160	75	20	95	45	20	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	18	0	18	10	9	19
3	Bombay	71	23	94	49	11	60	22	12	34
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	31	9	40	23	9	32
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	3	13	7	2	9
6	Delhi	45	15	60	30	0	30	15	15	30
7	Gauhati	18	6	24	18	6	24	0	0	0
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	32	0	32	7	13	20
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	3	13	8	1	9	2	2	4
10	J & K and Ladakh	13	4	17	13	0	13	0	4	4
11	Jharkhand	19	6	25	19	1	20	0	5	5
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	40	6	46	7	9	16
13	Kerala	35	12	47	29	12	41	6	0	6
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	30	0	30	10	13	23
15	Madras	56	19	75	45	15	60	11	4	15
16	Manipur	4	1	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	3	1	4	3	0	3	0	1	1
18	Orissa	20	7	27	18	0	18	2	7	9
19	Patna	40	13	53	26	0	26	14	13	27
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	44	6	50	20	15	35
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	28	0	28	10	12	22
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	19	0	19	13	10	23
24	Tripura	4	1	5	5	0	5	-1	1	0
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	0	8	1	2	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>402</b>

**Annexure – V**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021  
REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

**Statement showing sanctioned strength, working strength of the judges in the District and Subordinate Courts as on 29.11.2021**

S. No.	States & UTs	Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	13	-13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	607	492	115
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	41	32	9
4.	Assam	467	436	31
5.	Bihar	1953	1405	548
6.	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	482	411	71
8.	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9.	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10.	Delhi	862	691	171
11.	Goa	50	40	10
12.	Gujarat	1523	1129	394
13.	Haryana	772	482	290
14.	Himachal Pradesh	175	164	11
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	300	243	57
16.	Jharkhand	675	523	152
17.	Karnataka	1361	1082	279
18.	Kerala	569	490	79
19.	Ladakh	17	9	8
20.	Lakshadweep	3	3	0
21.	Madhya Pradesh	2021	1555	466
22.	Maharashtra	2190	1940	250
23.	Manipur	59	42	17
24.	Meghalaya	97	49	48
25.	Mizoram	64	42	22
26.	Nagaland	34	24	10
27.	Odisha	976	790	186
28.	Puducherry	26	11	15
29.	Punjab	692	608	84
30.	Rajasthan	1547	1274	273
31.	Sikkim	28	20	8
32.	Tamil Nadu	1315	1052	263
33.	Telangana	474	359	115
34.	Tripura	121	97	24
35.	Uttar Pradesh	3634	2559	1075
36.	Uttarakhand	299	271	28
37.	West Bengal	1014	918	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24485</b>	<b>19292</b>	<b>5193</b>

Source:- MIS portal of DoJ

**Annexure – VI**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (F) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1034 FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2021  
REGARDING PENDING CASES.**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State Bar Council</b>	<b>Total Number of Advocate</b>
1.	Assam	37326
2.	Andhra Pradesh	72719
3.	Telangana	40531
4.	Bihar	127501
5.	Chhattisgarh	30103
6.	Delhi	50317
7.	Gujarat	103390
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9075
9.	Jharkhand	31248
10.	Karnataka	102083
11.	Kerala	57671
12.	Madhya Pradesh	112390
13.	Maharashtra & Goa	191394
14.	Orissa	56344
15.	Punjab & Haryana	117423
16.	Rajasthan	88999
17.	Tamil Nadu	110843
18.	Uttar Pradesh	400016
19.	Uttarakhand	17200
20.	West Bengal	86555
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	10589
22.	Tripura	1409
23.	Manipur	1676
24.	Meghalaya	821
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1857623</b>

Source:- Bar Council of India