

Department of Justice
(Justice-II Section)

Question:- (a) whether the court proceedings/ judgments are available on the website of respective courts.

(b) whether suggestions have been received from various quarters to introduce audio-video recordings of courts' proceedings,

Answer:-

Status of cases and copies of judgments are available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes in respect of all courts which have been computerised. This information has also been linked to the national e-Courts portal (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>). Currently, litigants can access case status information in respect of over 5.49 crore pending and decided cases and approximately 1.75 crore orders/ judgments in more than 13,000 district and subordinate courts in the country.

The Government has been receiving suggestions for the implementation of audio-video recording of court proceedings. The issue has also been discussed in the meetings of Advisory Council of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. In the meeting of eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India held on 8th January, 2014, Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India advised deferment of audio-video recording of court proceedings as this would require consultations with Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

Question:- whether Government proposes to constitute more Fast Track Courts (FTCs) for speedy disposal of cases

Answer:-

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) is the responsibility of the State Governments. In the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in New Delhi on 7th April, 2013, it was resolved that the State Governments shall, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, take necessary steps to establish suitable number of FTCs

Questions: **whether the Government iproposes to set up Family Courts in districts with a population of one million or more**

Answer: As per the Family Courts Act, 1984, Family Courts are established by the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Court as per their need. Section 3(1) of the Act is reproduced below:

(3) Establishment of Family Courts:- (1) For the purpose of exercising the jurisdiction and powers conferred on a Family Court by this Act, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, and by notification:-

- a. shall, as soon as may be after commencement of this Act, establish for every area in the State comprising a city or town whose population exceeds one million; a Family Court;
- b. may establish Family Courts for such other areas in the State as it may deem necessary.

As on 30.9.2015, 432 Family Courts have been established in the country.

Government sent a proposal to the 14th Finance Commission for funding setting up of Family Courts so as to provide for at least one Family Court in each district in the country. The number of Family Courts required to be established in a State was arrived at so as to provide for, on an average, at least one Family Court in each district in that State or the number of districts without Family Courts reported by the respective High Court, whichever was higher. The Finance Commission endorsed the proposal to strengthen the judicial system in States which includes, inter-alia, establishing Family Courts. The State Governments are urged to use the additional fiscal space provide by the Commission in the tax devolution to meet such requirement

Question: **Whether Department of Justice has framed Citizens'/Clients' Charter**

Answer: Yes. This has been uploaded on the Website of Department of Justice.

FAQs for eCourts Mission Mode Project

1. What is the eCourts project?

Ans: The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the Country since 2007. The project is aimed at providing the necessary hardware and software application to enable courts to deliver e-services, and the judiciary to be able to monitor and manage the functioning of courts.

2. What are the objectives of eCourts project?

Ans: The objective of the eCourts project is to provide designated services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary by universal computerisation of district and subordinate courts in the country and enhancement of ICT enablement of the justice system.

3. What are the achievements of the Project, so far?

Ans: The progress of the project is as below:

- i. As on 30th September, 2015, 13,672 (93%) of the targeted 14,249 courts in Phase I of the Project have been computerised.
- ii. Laptops have been provided to 14,309 Judicial officers.
- iii. The e-Courts portal has become operational (<http://www.ecourts.gov.in>).
- iv. Currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 5.49 crore pending, decided cases and more than 1.75 crore orders/judgments pertaining to district and subordinate courts.
- v. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers have been trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux OS and more than 4000 court staff have been trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
- vi. Video Conferencing is being implemented in five hundred courts and corresponding jails.
- vii. ICT infrastructure of the Supreme Court and High Court has been upgraded.
- viii. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) has been opened for access to general public.
- ix. Phase II of the project has been approved and is under implementation.

4. What are the upcoming activities under the project?

Ans: Phase II of the project has been approved and is under implementation. The targets to be achieved under the eCourts Project Phase II are as follows:

- i. Computerisation of around 5751 new courts
- ii. Enhanced ICT enablement of existing 14,249 computerised courts with additional hardware.

- iii. Connecting all courts in the country to the NJDG through WAN and additional redundant connectivity, equipped for eventual integration with the proposed interoperable criminal justice system (ICJS).
- iv. Citizen centric facilities such as Centralised Filing Centres and touch screen based Kiosks in each Court Complex.
- v. Installation of Video Conferencing facility at remaining Court Complexes and jails.
- vi. Computerisation of SJAs, DLSAs and TLSCs.
- vii. Creating a robust Court Management System through digitisation, document management, Judicial Knowledge Management and learning tools management.
- viii. Installation of Cloud network and solar energy resource at Court Complexes.
- ix. Facilitating improved performance of courts through change management and process re-engineering as well as improvement in process servicing through hand-held devices.
- x. Enhanced ICT enablement through e-filing, e-Payment and use of mobile applications.
- xi. Citizen centric service delivery.

5. Is eCourts project a part of digital India programme of the Prime Minister?

Ans: In line with the Digital India Programme of the Government of India which emphasises on Citizen centric services, this project would also focus on Digital Infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen providing Governance and Services on demand eventually making the citizens digitally empowered.