

2026



INDIAN PARLIAMENT

RAJYA SABHA REPLIES

MONSOON SESSION, 2026

[271th SESSION OF RAJYA SABHA]

[20th July, 2026 to 13th August, 2026]

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 50
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

OBJECTIVES OF DISHA 2.0

JS(A25)

50 SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the implementation framework, financial outlay and component-wise objectives of the Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0 Scheme proposed during the period from 2026-27 to 2030-31;
- (b) the targets fixed for newly introduced VIDHI-Sanjeevani component and the Centralized Digital Platform during 2026-27;
- (c) the roadmap for rollout of AI-powered Nyaya Setu chatbot under the scheme; and
- (d) the monitoring mechanism proposed to be adopted to assess the outcomes of DISHA 2.0 and improve last-mile access to justice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 50 FOR REPLY ON 23/07/2026 REGARDING
OBJECTIVES OF DISHA 2.0**

(a) & (b): Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0, Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 255 crore for the period 2026-2031. DISHA 2.0 aims at leveraging technology to develop and enhance the outreach of citizen friendly solution platforms for legal services. It includes four components viz. Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached (free pre litigation advice to all); Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono legal Services) Programme; Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives)-Sanjeevani.

The Tele-Law connects people with panel lawyers through mobile-app and Toll Free No. 14454 for rendering pre-litigation legal advice through use of video/tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the panchayat level. Nyaya Sahayaks, who are active community based legal facilitators, have been engaged in the Aspirational Blocks to strengthen service delivery.

Under Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) Programme, advocates voluntarily provide legal assistance to marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society covered under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987. To strengthen institutional coordination, Pro-Bono panels have been constituted in 23 High Courts across the country. In order to instill culture of community led pro-bono services amongst law students, Pro-Bono Clubs are functional in the Law Schools/Colleges pan India.

The Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP) envisages engaging with institutions and building partnerships across stakeholder Ministries/Departments, to build capacity of the grassroot workers, legally empower them and spread legal awareness through workshops, webinars, IEC materials, collaboration with Prasar Bharati and others.

VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) - Sanjeevani is envisaged as a key component under DISHA 2.0 to enhance the monitoring mechanism of the scheme through development and operationalization of a centralized Integrated Dashboard. The dashboard aims to provide a unified interface integrating real-time data streams from multiple sources to facilitate monitoring of the programme performance, service delivery and implementation progress. It envisages integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot to facilitate technology-enabled service support and improve user interaction through AI-driven assistance mechanisms. VIDHI Sanjeevani envisages outreach to 50 lakh beneficiaries over a period of five years i.e., 2026-31.

(c): The Generative AI powered multilingual and multi-model Nyaya Setu chatbot platform was launched on 29th March, 2026. It helps people understand legal processes, rights, and next steps through simple voice and text interactions across 22 Indian languages through voice-first interface. It utilizes a Hybrid Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architecture to ensure response are grounded in statutory legal texts, thereby reducing the risk of AI hallucination.

(d): The Monitoring of the outcome of the Scheme is envisaged through VIDHI- Sanjeevani, a Centralized Integrated Dashboard apart from regular review meetings, field visits, and direct feedback by way of regional workshops and through a dedicated Programme Management Unit (PMU),

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 56
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

JSLE-courts)

✓ 56 SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) presently functioning in the country, State/UT-wise, along with their sanctioned and existing judicial strength;
- (b) the pendency of cases, including the cases under the POCSO Act and the cases of rape, before such courts as on date, State-wise;
- (c) the conviction rate achieved by FTSCs since their establishment, State-wise; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to expand the number of FTSCs and address infrastructure and manpower gaps therein and if so, the details and timeline thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 FOR ANSWER ON 23/07/2026 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'

(a) & (b): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts was launched in October, 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. This Scheme has been extended twice, with the last extension up to 31st March 2026, for establishment of 790 courts. The Scheme has been temporarily extended upto 30th September, 2026. As per the information made available by the High Courts, as of 30.04.2026, 775 FTSCs, including 398 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts were functional in 29 States/UTs. The funds are released on the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Central share: State share: 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of **one Judicial Officer** along with 7 support Staff and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses per court. Hence, the sanctioned judicial strength is **one Judicial Officer** per functional court for 775 Courts and existing judicial strength is 775 as on 30.4.2026. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO courts and pendency of cases therein, are given at **Annexure-I**.

(c): The State/UT-wise conviction rate of FTSCs for the last three calendar years are given at **Annexure-II**.

(d): As per the existing FTSCs Scheme 790 Courts are to be set up out of which 775 Courts are functional as on 30.04.2026. Setting up of more courts is to be decided by the participating States/UTs in consultation with their respective High Courts, taking into account the number of cases pending. The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Courts in the States/UTs, rests with the State/UT Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State /UT Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts by providing financial assistance to the State/UT Governments in the prescribed fund sharing between Center and States since 1993-94. At present, there are five components of the Scheme for which Central assistance is granted to the States/UTs viz (i) Court Halls (ii) Residential Units (iii) Lawyers' Halls (iv) Toilet Complexes and (v) Digital Computer Rooms. An amount of ₹4,519.47 crore has been provided as financial assistance to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary during the XV Finance Commission cycle.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 FOR ANSWER ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'

State/UT-wise functional FTSCs including e-POCSO courts along with pendency of Rape and POCSO Act cases in FTSCs as on 30.04.2026

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		No. of cases pending at the end of the month				Cumulative Pendency
		FTSCs including e-POCSO	e-POCSO	Combined FTSCs			e-POCSO	
				Rape	POCSO	Total		
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	0	0	5487	5487
2	Assam	17	17	0	0	0	6783	6783
3	Bihar	54	48	1912	2700	4612	19318	23930
4	Chandigarh	1	0	61	128	189	0	189
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11	14	89	103	1009	1112
6	Delhi	16	11	896	0	896	2334	3230
7	Goa	1	0	89	66	155	0	155
8	Gujarat	35	24	775	677	1452	3405	4857
9	Haryana	18	14	301	890	1191	3497	4688
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	48	194	242	297	539
11	J&K	4	2	158	0	158	324	482
12	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Karnataka	30	16	165	1904	2069	3247	5316
14	Kerala	55	14	1068	3764	4832	1576	6408
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	56	2411	409	2820	7828	10648
16	Maharashtra	38	0	7939	30535	38474	0	38474
17	Manipur	2	0	0	30	30	0	30
18	Meghalaya	5	5	0	0	0	1167	1167
19	Mizoram	3	1	4	39	43	40	83
20	Nagaland	1	0	4	47	51	0	51
21	Odisha	44	23	927	1894	2821	6028	8849
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	0	242	242
23	Punjab	12	3	279	653	932	439	1371
24	Rajasthan	45	30	50	783	833	2647	3480
25	Tamil Nadu	20	20	0	0	0	8832	8832
26	Telangana	36	0	324	8584	8908	0	8908
27	Tripura	3	1	103	34	137	98	235
28	Uttarakhand	4	0	383	827	1210	0	1210
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	4634	30576	35210	61339	96549
30	West Bengal	8	8	0	0	0	5904	5904
	TOTAL	775	398	22545	84823	107368	141841	249209

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

Annexure-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 FOR ANSWER ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING 'FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS'.

State/UT-wise Conviction Rate in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Average Conviction rate (%)		
		Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.97	5.19	5.55
2	Assam	16.70	35.00	21.00
3	Bihar	17.29	14.51	9.65
4	Chandigarh	67	16.92	18.50
5	Chhattisgarh	16.88	23.69	14.01
6	Delhi	24.94	8.59	10.92
7	Goa	39	9.69	18.75
8	Gujarat	7.42	9.53	9.34
9	Haryana	15.52	40.50	17.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	25.04	8.24	15.50
11	Jammu & Kashmir	6	4.50	4.44
12	Jharkhand*	21.2	14.78	20.80
13	Karnataka	12.54	8.10	7.04
14	Kerala	9.9	13.00	14.51
15	Madhya Pradesh	27.45	14.50	23.32
16	Maharashtra	10.55	6.07	22.22
17	Manipur	21.86	7.00	64.70
18	Meghalaya	58.49	45.00	52.78
19	Mizoram	14.14	33.50	58.50
20	Nagaland	24	25.00	80.00
21	Odisha	13.32	10.63	8.43
22	Puducherry	17	17.94	19.00
23	Punjab	12.46	47.19	23.00
24	Rajasthan	22.6	18.29	16.58
25	Tamil Nadu	28.5	25.82	31.35
26	Telangana	7.12	7.00	20.21
27	Tripura	6.87	5.30	21.00
28	Uttarakhand	22.42	22.50	20.20
29	Uttar Pradesh	26.49	25.11	25.22
30	West Bengal	1	2.00	11.00

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

LEGAL REFORMS

✓587 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering any new legal reform measures to ensure better access to justice to the common citizens of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases pending in various courts, category-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore to make justice more accessible. More than 4,14,89,062 court hearings have been conducted through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in several High Courts. The number of e-Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) providing free eCourts services has increased to 2,515 across High Courts and District Courts.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act, 775 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.04.2026. Till 30.04.2026, Fast Track Special Courts have collectively disposed of 3,87,481 cases.
- iii. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- iv. The Government has also enacted The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018 with a view to reduce pendency. In addition, New Criminal Laws 2023 have been enacted.
- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have also been promoted by the Government. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- vii. The Department of Justice has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0, with a total outlay of Rs. 255 crores for a period of five years (2026-2031) for providing a comprehensive, integrated solution on Access to Justice at a pan India level through Tele-Law (pre-litigation legal advice through telephone), Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Advocates), Legal Literacy & Legal Awareness and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonised Legal Initiatives)- Sanjeevani Programmes. As on 30th June, 2026, more than 1.13 crore pre-litigation legal advices have been provided across the country. As on 30th June, 2026, total 10,835 advocates have volunteered and registered on Nyaya Bandhu platform. Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot facilitates automated query handling, structured data capture, and multilingual interaction support through BHASHINI-enabled functionalities, ensuring language is not a barrier to justice-related services.

(c): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 16.07.2026, the number of pending cases in various courts, category-wise are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total pendency
1.	Supreme Court	74339	21685	96024
2.	High Courts	4513738	1958798	6472536
3.	District & Subordinate Courts	11333509	38512029	49845538

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (FTSCs)

55(J-II)

✓ 588 SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:
SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:
SHRI RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA:
SHRI JAGGESH:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) functioning in the country including exclusive POCSO Courts, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed, disposed of and pending before these courts during the last three years;
- (c) the details of funds released and utilized therefor during the said period, State-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken to improve disposal rates and address vacancies and infrastructure gaps in FTSCs?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme to set up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts was launched in October 2019, for the expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Scheme has been extended twice, with the last extension valid up to 31.03.2026 for establishment of 790 FTSCs. The Scheme has been temporarily extended upto 30th September, 2026. As per the information made available by the High Courts, as of 30.04.2026, 775 FTSCs, including 398 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts were functional in 29 States/UTs. The State/UT-wise details are given at **Annexure-I**.

(b): The number of cases registered, disposed of and pending before Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO courts, during the last three years, are as under:

Year	Cases Registered	Cases Disposed	Cases Pending*
2023	81,471	76,319	2,02,175
2024	88,902	85,595	2,04,122
2025	1,43,936	66,500	2,45,579

* Pending as on 31st December of the respective years.

(c): The funds under the FTSC Scheme are released on the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (Central share: State share :: 60:40, 90:10) to cover the salaries of one Judicial Officer along with 7 support Staff per FTSC and a Flexi Grant for meeting the day-to-day expenses. The funds are reimbursed to the States/UTs after receipt of the expenditure statements from them. The Department has released a sum of ₹1259.51 crore to the States/UTs since its inception to ensure the smooth functioning of the courts. The State/UT-wise details of central share of funds released during the last three years including FY 2026-27 are given at **Annexure-II**.

(d): To strengthen the functioning of FTSCs, regular review meetings are held via Video Conferencing with the States/UTs and the High Courts. The Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice has written to Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts regarding need for timely action and strict compliance with timelines under the POCSO Act and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. In addition, the performance of FTSCs is a regular agenda item in the Inter-State Zonal Council meetings to improve inter-governmental coordination and expedite justice delivery.

As regards the recruitment of judges and staff in courts, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts including the FTSCs, is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments and the concerned High Courts. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State/UT Government in consultation with the respective High Court frames the rules regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers.

The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Courts in the States/UTs, rests with the State/UT Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State /UT Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts by providing financial assistance to the State/UT Governments in the prescribed fund sharing between Center and States since 1993-94. At present, there are five components of the Scheme for which Central assistance is granted to the States/UTs viz (i) Court

Halls (ii) Residential Units (iii) Lawyers' Halls (iv) Toilet Complexes and (v) Digital Computer Rooms. An amount of ₹4,519.47 crore has been provided as financial assistance to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary during the XV Finance Commission cycle.

State/UT-wise functional FTSCs including e-POCSO courts as on 30.04.2026

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts -775	
		FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts	exclusive POCSO courts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2.	Assam	17	17
3.	Bihar	54	48
4.	Chandigarh	1	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6.	Delhi	16	11
7.	Goa	1	0
8.	Gujarat	35	24
9.	Haryana	18	14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11.	J&K	4	2
12.	Jharkhand*	0	0
13.	Karnataka	30	16
14.	Kerala	55	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	67	56
16.	Maharashtra	38	0
17.	Manipur	2	0
18.	Meghalaya	5	5
19.	Mizoram	3	1
20.	Nagaland	1	0
21.	Odisha	44	23
22.	Puducherry	1	1
23.	Punjab	12	3
24.	Rajasthan	45	30
25.	Tamil Nadu	20	20
26.	Telangana	36	0
27.	Tripura	3	1
28.	Uttarakhand	4	0
29.	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
30.	West Bengal	8	8
	TOTAL	775	398
* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.			

State/UT-wise details of Central Share of funds released under the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme during the last three years

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Amount Released in 2023-24	Amount Released in 2024-25	Amount Released in 2025-26
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2.	Assam	5.528655	10.975085	10.2883947
3.	Bihar	9.874035	11.35878	22.1617199
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.25215	3.70395	4.2178092
6.	Delhi	3.46896	1.97544	12.83992
7.	Goa	0.21681	0.49386	0.3473393
8.	Gujarat	7.58835	8.64255	2.1386089
9.	Haryana	3.46896	7.90176	7.00002
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.95129	2.22237	5.2283322
11.	J&K	2.32086	1.48158	1.739494
12.	Jharkhand*	4.76982	0	0
13.	Karnataka	7.45091	7.65483	8.0348025
14.	Kerala	25.39836	13.58115	26.2767511
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.37627	16.54431	21.3280045
16.	Maharashtra	6.59259	1.23465	2.0772397
17.	Manipur	0.65043	0.74079	0.1367199
18.	Meghalaya	1.626075	1.851975	0.396
19.	Mizoram	0.975645	1.111185	2.0752012
20.	Nagaland	0.325215	0.370395	0.099556
21.	Odisha	9.52128	10.86492	22.7717099
22.	Puducherry	0.195975	0.24693	0.6008314
23.	Punjab	3.95972	5.92632	4.66668
24.	Rajasthan	21.1383	22.2237	19.4445
25.	Tamil Nadu	6.496035	6.91404	7.3159963
26.	Telangana	7.60671	4.44474	1.8395415
27.	Tripura	0.975645	1.111185	0.0356784
28.	Uttarakhand	1.30086	1.48158	2.3551831
29.	Uttar Pradesh	47.26458	53.83074	13.2926408
30.	West Bengal	0.70551	1.111185	1.2913255
	TOTAL	200.00	200.00	200.00

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 589
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

JUDGES OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

JS (App'ts.)
L589 SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of current judges in High Courts and Supreme Court hailing from minority communities including Christians and Muslims;
- (b) the percentage of minority judges during the last 4 decades, decade-wise; and
- (c) the measures to improve diversity including gender and religious diversity in various High Courts and the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts is not centrally available.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to enhancing social diversity in judiciary and has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward

Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts. Only those persons who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium, are appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 590
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

CIRCUIT BENCHES/BENCHES OF SUPREME COURT

JSL APPAS

✓ 590 SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision regarding setting up of Circuit Benches/Benches of Supreme Court at different major places in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

The Eleventh Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

DISTRICT JUDICIARY INFRASTRUCTURE

JS(NMJP-I)
✓ 591 SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in Odisha;
- (b) the number of vacancies in the district judiciary;
- (c) the details of Central assistance provided for judicial infrastructure during the last five years; and
- (d) whether additional assistance is proposed and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per data available on the Nyaya Vikas Portal 2.0, as on 17.7.2026, the sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in Odisha is as under:

Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Vacancy
1183	854	329

The numbers of vacancies in the district judiciary are at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): During last 5 years, central assistance of Rs 146.42 Cr has been provided to the State of Odisha under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure facilities in District and Subordinate Courts. During the current Financial year 2026-27, for the above scheme, a tentative allocation of Rs 25.37 Cr has been done for the State of Odisha. Mother Sanction for an amount of Rs 12.685 cr has already been issued to the State, out of which the State has utilized Rs 0.06cr till 16.07.2026.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591 FOR ANSWER ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING 'DISTRICT
JUDICIARY INFRASTRUCTURE'**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Total		
		Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0	12	-12
2	Andhra Pradesh	739	565	174
3	Arunachal Pradesh	53	39	14
4	Assam	486	445	41
5	Bihar	2032	1658	374
6	Chandigarh	30	30	0
7	Chhattisgarh	677	500	177
8	D & N Haveli	3	2	1
9	Daman & Diu	4	4	0
10	Delhi	950	832	118
11	Goa	60	57	3
12	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
13	Haryana	787	648	139
14	Himachal Pradesh	192	172	20
15	Jammu and Kashmir	322	267	55
16	Jharkhand	710	498	212
17	Karnataka	2812	1172	1640
18	Kerala	614	574	40
19	Ladakh	17	8	9
20	Lakshadweep	5	2	3
21	Madhya Pradesh	2051	1683	368
22	Maharashtra	5247	4350	897
23	Manipur	72	47	25
24	Meghalaya	99	57	42
25	Mizoram	74	45	29
26	Nagaland	34	24	10
27	Odisha	1183	854	329
28	Puducherry	38	26	12
29	Punjab	834	696	138
30	Rajasthan	1712	1517	195
31	Sikkim	36	31	5
32	Tamil Nadu	1400	1204	196
33	Telangana	619	474	145
34	Tripura	133	119	14
35	Uttar Pradesh	3700	2618	1082
36	Uttarakhand	318	280	38
37	West Bengal	1105	863	242
TOTAL		30,868	23,558	7,310

Source: Nyaya Vikas Portal 2.0

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 592
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

JS(A2J)
✓
EFFECTIVENESS OF FREE LEGAL AID IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

✓592 SHRI SAT PAUL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any recent studies or consultations to evaluate the effectiveness of free legal aid services under the DISHA scheme in Jammu & Kashmir, in reducing case pendency for economically disadvantaged individuals; and
- (b) if so, a detailed breakdown of the major reforms or strategies identified to strengthen these services and improve case resolution delays?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Law and Justice has conducted an independent third-party evaluation-cum-impact assessment study of the erstwhile DISHA Scheme (2021-26) through M/s Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which highlighted the relevance of the Scheme. DISHA Scheme has been extended as DISHA 2.0 for a period of five years (2026-31), for pan India implementation, including Jammu & Kashmir.

The DISHA 2.0 Scheme provides an easy, accessible, affordable, technology enabled and people-centric legal services through its components viz. Tele-Law (Reaching the Unreached), Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme, Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme, and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonised Legal Initiatives) – Sanjeevani.

The Tele-Law connects people with panel lawyers through mobile-app and Toll Free No. 14454 for rendering pre-litigation legal advice and through use of video/tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the panchayat level. Nyaya Sahayaks, who are active community based legal facilitators, have been engaged in the Aspirational Blocks to strengthen service delivery.

As on 30.06.2026, 7,63,148 pre-litigation legal advice have been provided by 5 panel lawyers, facilitated through CSCs in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. 8 Nyaya Sahayaks working in 10 Aspirational Blocks have registered 1,222 calls.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) Programme promotes a pro bono culture among advocates and law students by facilitating free legal assistance to eligible beneficiaries under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, through the Nyaya Bandhu Portal and Mobile Application, which enables seamless connect between registered beneficiaries and Pro Bono Advocates. As on 30.06.2026, 197 advocates are registered under the Bar Council of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP) envisages engaging with institutions and building partnerships across stakeholder Ministries/Departments, to build capacity of the grassroot workers, legally empower them and spread legal awareness through workshops, webinars, IEC materials, collaboration with Prasar Bharati and others.

VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) - Sanjeevani is envisaged as a key component under DISHA 2.0 to enhance the monitoring mechanism of the scheme through development and operationalization of a centralized Integrated Dashboard. The dashboard aims to provide a unified interface integrating real-time data streams from multiple sources to facilitate monitoring of the programme performance, service delivery and implementation progress. It envisages integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot to facilitate technology-enabled service support and improve user interaction through AI-driven assistance mechanisms, VIDHI Sanjeevani envisages outreach to 50 lakh beneficiaries over a period of five years i.e., 2026-31.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

ESEWA KENDRAS

✓ 593 SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the current number, locations and recent expansion of eSewa Kendras in High Courts and District Courts;
- (b) the process for selecting new locations and allocating funds for eSewa Kendras, especially in underserved areas;
- (c) whether steps are taken to improve accessibility for marginalised groups and differently abled;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the efforts made to address staffing, technology or awareness challenges and actions planned for further improvement?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project, as on 30.06.2026, 2584 e-Sewa Kendras are functional across 25 High Courts. High Court-wise details are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

eSewa Kendras are established by High Courts after consultation with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. Funds are released to the respective High Courts based on their requirements. The number and location of e-Sewa Kendras is determined based on the size, requirements and geographical spread of court complexes to ensure wider access to digital judicial services. As on date, funds amounting to Rs.300.22 crore has been released for establishment of e-Sewa Kendras.

(c) & (d): e-Sewa Kendras have been envisaged as citizen-centric facilitation centres to ensure access and inclusion by bridging the digital divide. They provide guided assistance to litigants and advocates who may lack adequate digital resources or digital literacy, facilitate access to e-Filing,

online payments, Virtual Courts, video conferencing services, accessible eCourts websites and portals, and provide guidance on free legal services available through the District Legal Services Authorities and High Court Legal Services Committees. Under Phase-III, the Project also envisages accessible and inclusive digital judicial services through disabled-friendly ICT-enabled facilities, multilingual interfaces and user-centric service delivery.

(e): Continuous efforts have been made to strengthen the functioning of e-Sewa Kendras through capacity building, stakeholder awareness, technical support and adoption of improved digital services. Under Phase-III, e-Sewa Kendras have been upgraded as advanced citizen service centres to support end-to-end digital court processes and facilitate wider adoption of eCourts services across the country, particularly for citizens with limited digital access.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 593 FOR 23.07.2026 REGARDING ESEWA KENDRAS

Status of implementation of e-Sewa Kendras as on 30.06.2026:

Sr. No.	High Court	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in High Courts (A)	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in District Courts (B)	Total (A+B)
1	Allahabad	3	124	127
2	Andhra Pradesh	4	34	38
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1	30	31
4	Assam	2	78	80
5	Bombay	3	351	354
6	Calcutta	1	50	51
7	Chhattisgarh	1	92	93
8	Telangana	1	98	99
9	Manipur	1	22	23
10	Mizoram	1	8	9
11	Orissa	1	183	184
12	Rajasthan	2	29	31
13	of Delhi	1	13	14
14	Gujarat	1	195	196
15	Himachal Pradesh	1	39	40
16	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	2	25	27
17	Jharkhand	2	62	64
18	Karnataka	3	75	78
19	Kerala	1	161	162
20	Madhya Pradesh	3	233	236
21	Madras	7	310	317
22	Meghalaya	1	16	17
23	Nagaland	1	11	12
24	Patna	1	104	105
25	Punjab and Haryana	1	127	128
26	Sikkim	1	10	11
27	Tripura	1	16	17
28	Uttarakhand	1	39	40
	Total	49	2535	2584

Source: eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 594
ANSWERED ON-23/07/2026

DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

JS (APPHS)
✓ 594. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of vacancies of judges in each High Court, together with the period for which such vacancies have remained unfilled;
- (b) the number of recommendations received from the Supreme Court Collegium during the last five years for appointment, transfer or repatriation of judges and the average time taken by Government at each stage of processing such recommendations; and
- (c) whether Government has examined the feasibility of appointing retired or sitting judges of the Supreme Court as Chief Justices or judges of High Courts to address persistent judicial vacancies and strengthen judicial administration and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Judges of the High Courts are appointed under Article 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case).

Filling up of vacancies in the higher Judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of

proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts. The incumbency position is at *Annexure*.

**Sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy of Judges in High Courts as
on 01.07.2026**

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	160	108	52
2	Andhra Pradesh	37	29	8
3	Bombay	94	75	19
4	Calcutta	72	41	31
5	Chhattisgarh	22	13	9
6	Delhi	60	44	16
7	Gauhati	30	24	6
8	Gujarat	52	34	18
9	Himachal Pradesh	17	12	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	25	12	13
11	Jharkhand	25	13	12
12	Karnataka	62	48	14
13	Kerala	47	36	11
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	37	16
15	Madras	75	51	24
16	Manipur	5	3	2
17	Meghalaya	4	4	0
18	Orissa	33	18	15
19	Patna	53	44	9
20	Punjab & Haryana	85	55	30
21	Rajasthan	50	39	11
22	Sikkim	3	2	1
23	Telangana	42	27	15
24	Tripura	5	4	1
25	Uttarakhand	11	8	3
	Total	1122	781	341

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 595
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

STATUS OF JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND JUDICIAL REFORMS

✓ 595 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has held any consultations during the last five years with the judiciary, State Governments, constitutional authorities or other stakeholders regarding reforms in the existing system of appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts;
- (b) if so, the details and outcomes of such consultations;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any study or comparative analysis of judicial appointment mechanisms followed in other constitutional democracies, with a view to improving transparency, accountability and institutional efficiency in judicial appointments; and
- (d) the present status of Government's proposals, if any, relating to reforms in the judicial appointments process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Appointments of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are governed by Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India.

The procedure for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, initiation of proposal for appointment

of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India and initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. Only those persons are appointed as Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC).

Appointment of the Judges of the Constitutional Courts is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the Executive and the Judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various constitutional authorities both at state and central level.

In order to replace the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts with a more broad-based, transparent, accountable appointment mechanism and to bring greater objectivity in the system, the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 were brought into effect on 13.04.2015. However, both Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
ANSWERED ON - 23/07/2026

DIGITISATION OF COURTS IN ODISHA

✓ 596 SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in implementation of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project in Odisha;
- (b) the number of district and subordinate courts digitised in the State;
- (c) whether any additional financial assistance has been provided for strengthening digital judicial infrastructure in Odisha; and
- (d) the future roadmap for improving access to justice through technology?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner across the country with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. The Department of Justice in close coordination with the eCommittee of Supreme Court of India is implementing the e-Courts Project in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts.

In the State of Odisha, the e-Courts Project is being implemented under the guidance of the Orissa High Court in all district and subordinate courts. A total of 817 out of 845 courts and 203 out of 215 court complexes have been equipped with ICT hardware for the computerisation of courts under the e-Courts Project Phase III. As on 30.06.2026, a total of 42.96 lakh legacy case records, comprising 24.17 crore pages have been digitised across the High Court and District Courts. Presently, 18 courts in the High Court and 343 courts in district judiciary are

functioning in paperless mode by utilizing the PDF-based tools, facilitating digital access to case records and court proceedings.

All 30 District Court websites have been migrated to S3WAAS platform. 320 court establishments across the district judiciary have been successfully migrated from Case Information System (CIS) 3.0 to CIS 4.0. Since, 01.01.2026, CIS has consumed data pertaining to 3.10 lakh FIRs and 2.29 lakh chargesheets through the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) platform.

Further, e-Filing 3.0 software has been implemented across all courts and 1.31 lakh cases have been e-filed till 30.06.2026. Video conferencing facilities have also been enabled across all courts in the State and 7.61 lakh virtual hearings have been conducted till 30.06.2026. In addition, 184 eSewa Kendras have been set up across the State to enhance access to justice for citizens in remote areas.

Under the e-Courts Project Phase III (2023 – 2027), the details of fund sanctioned and utilized by the Orissa High Court are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Sanctioned	Utilized
2023-24	9.79	6.77
2024-25	58.48	53.24
2025-26	16.09	14.12
2026-27	7.09	0.43*

*Till 17.07.2026.

Under the e-Courts Project, large-scale digitization of pending, disposed of and historical case records is envisaged to ensure long-term preservation, faster retrieval, reduction in physical storage requirements and improved accessibility for litigants, advocates and judicial officers. In addition, the development of a comprehensive digital and paperless court ecosystem is envisaged to enable end-to-end digital court functioning covering the entire lifecycle of a case. Further, a tripartite agreement has been executed among the Orissa High Court, the State Government of Odisha, and the Government of India to obtain necessary fund sanction for expanding digital court services.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 597
ANSWERED ON - 23/07/2026

JS(NMTR-I)
✓597

PENDING CASES IN INDIAN COURTS

✓597 SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases pending before different courts of India and out of such pending cases, the number of those pending for more than 30 years, 20 years, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year, State-wise; and
(b) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce those pending cases?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 16.07.2026, the number of cases pending before different Courts of India and the number of those cases which are pending for more than 30 years, 20 years, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year, State-wise are at **Annexure I & II**.

(b): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which include inter alia, complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants etc. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases:

- i. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act, 775 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs and have collectively disposed of 3,87,481 cases.
- iii. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- iv. The Government has also enacted New Criminal Laws 2023, The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018 with a view to reduce pendency.
- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have also been promoted by the Government.
- vi. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 597 FOR ANSWER ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN INDIAN COURTS'

Number of cases pending, as on 16.07.2026, and the number of cases pending for more than 30 years, 20 years, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year, State-wise, in the Supreme Court and High Courts							
		>30 years	>20 years	>10 years	>5 years	>1 year	Total pending cases
Supreme Court of India		26	558	10,094	24,611	49,248	96,024
Sr. No.	Name of the High Court						
1	Allahabad High Court	53,787	1,61,598	4,88,359	7,30,562	10,76,285	12,28,353
2	Bombay High Court	3,901	55,255	1,85,261	3,19,478	5,30,094	6,57,813
3	Calcutta High Court	11,417	34,551	75,268	1,09,456	1,72,644	2,00,173
4	Gauhati High Court	0	81	4,802	23,712	50,314	65,001
5	High Court for State of Telangana	63	2,610	36,319	1,02,105	1,96,407	2,42,625
6	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	0	94	6,149	23,454	55,270	74,109
7	High Court Of Rajasthan	2,111	33,296	1,31,370	2,96,248	5,51,038	6,96,348
8	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	1,650	7,331	56,067	1,16,340	2,12,266	2,53,617
9	High Court of Delhi	126	2,129	20,515	42,324	93,070	1,25,478
10	High Court of Gujarat	19	2,143	25,287	70,017	1,39,725	1,75,436
11	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	3	90	8,521	40,777	81,010	1,04,770
12	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	4	395	6,133	13,514	33,950	44,595
13	High Court of Jharkhand	59	3,855	14,952	29,117	55,241	72,751
14	High Court of Karnataka	44	569	22,221	78,333	2,49,161	3,37,159
15	High Court of Kerala	74	2,004	41,511	1,06,117	2,03,002	2,46,302
16	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	92	24,938	1,54,860	2,54,713	4,14,465	4,90,363
17	High Court of Manipur	0	5	133	1,111	4,426	6,230
18	High Court of Meghalaya	0	0	7	99	821	1,996
19	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	303	25,247	1,32,924	2,28,758	3,51,759	4,23,169
20	High Court of Sikkim	0	0	4	16	153	318
21	High Court of Tripura	0	0	1	13	533	1,613
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	0	869	6,291	23,431	50,824	63,263
23	Madras High Court	3,118	76,298	1,19,699	2,05,815	4,17,639	5,67,814
24	Orissa High Court	376	7,035	38,866	69,684	1,31,359	1,69,320
25	Patna High Court	3,513	11,759	39,137	89,967	1,71,872	2,23,920
Total		80,660	4,52,152	16,14,657	29,75,161	52,43,328	64,72,536

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 597 FOR ANSWER ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN INDIAN COURTS'

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Number of cases pending, as on 16.07.2026, and the number of cases pending for more than 30 years, 20 years, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year, State-wise, in the District & Subordinate Courts							
Sr. No.	Name of State/UTs	>30 years	>20 years	>10 years	>5 years	>1 year	Total pending cases
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	6	110	1,575	3,885	7,388	8,778
2.	Andhra Pradesh	55	774	18,483	1,58,015	6,90,066	9,44,280
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	307	1,551	4,106	11,844	16,798
4.	Assam	28	261	10,950	67,825	4,40,194	6,04,236
5.	Bihar	6,946	1,22,947	8,75,694	20,84,325	32,62,587	37,62,813
6.	Chandigarh	2	13	452	6,427	62,032	1,00,263
7.	Chhattisgarh	35	119	1,323	42,555	3,14,447	4,91,080
8.	Delhi	102	1,032	43,538	2,62,519	11,42,749	17,35,136
9.	Goa	272	796	4,527	16,666	44,768	63,560
10.	Gujarat	136	5,987	56,620	2,44,000	10,20,264	16,00,496
11.	Haryana	16	85	5,483	2,22,878	11,11,724	15,27,352
12.	Himachal Pradesh	4	46	10,516	80,486	3,17,396	6,33,979
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	45	654	20,765	84,126	2,58,880	3,64,800
14.	Jharkhand	79	1,012	44,399	1,59,284	4,30,321	5,84,838
15.	Karnataka	206	3,848	99,539	4,30,706	15,72,808	23,21,907
16.	Kerala	222	1,232	48,078	3,43,815	12,84,608	18,12,563
17.	Ladakh	0	0	11	112	937	1,754
18.	Lakshadweep	0	2	26	99	418	601
19.	Madhya Pradesh	144	1,047	35,545	3,82,500	15,68,316	21,34,825
20.	Maharashtra	12,109	69,626	5,52,572	17,65,495	47,68,805	61,80,192
21.	Manipur	10	38	842	3,166	9,223	14,857
22.	Meghalaya	59	309	2,501	5,731	13,183	19,159
23.	Mizoram	0	2	24	576	4,800	9,798
24.	Nagaland	0	9	309	1,191	3,333	4,101
25.	Odisha	4,441	45,333	3,07,216	7,66,177	15,60,820	18,68,323
26.	Puducherry	1	56	2,514	7,672	23,752	36,841
27.	Punjab	9	90	4,090	67,007	5,54,092	10,17,925
28.	Rajasthan	341	2,827	83,567	6,93,167	20,89,199	27,45,299
29.	Sikkim	0	1	4	36	965	2,265
30.	Tamil Nadu	450	4,173	63,962	2,68,543	10,91,674	17,81,234
31.	Telangana	236	1,740	20,277	1,78,176	7,63,779	10,11,003
32.	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	0	30	391	1897	6,234	8,575
33.	Tripura	49	123	739	4281	26,202	75,020
34.	Uttar Pradesh	37,394	3,41,397	23,09,086	49,08,308	96,40,686	1,19,46,397
35.	Uttarakhand	9	139	7,322	55,628	2,18,426	3,09,849
36.	West Bengal	17,839	1,15,192	8,02,541	15,24,468	31,78,638	41,04,641
	Total	81,275	7,21,357	54,37,032	1,48,45,848	3,74,95,558	4,98,45,538

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 599
ANSWERED ON - 23/07/2026

JSle-Courts
COURT INFRASTRUCTURE AND AI INTEGRATION

✓599 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has evaluated the outcomes of e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase III regarding the deployment of AI-backed legal assistants like LegRAA and SUPACE specifically inside fast-track POCSO courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the state-wise data on reduction of case disposal times and structural pendency in special courts achieved via these automated tools;
- (c) whether any safety guidelines and ethical guardrails established by Government to ensure AI utilities only support legal research without encroaching on subjective judicial determination; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Under eCourts Project phase III, an amount of ₹53.57 crore has been earmarked under the Future Technological Advancements component for integration of emerging technologies, including AI.

As per information provided by Supreme Court of India, AI-based tools such as Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA) to assist Hon'ble Judges in legal research and document analysis, and Digital Courts 2.1 for integrated digital case management are in pilot testing phase. Supreme Court Portal Assistance in Court Efficiency (SUPACE) is currently not in use. These pilot initiatives are not specific to Fast Track POCSO Courts. Accordingly, no evaluation has been undertaken with respect to above.

The operational framework governing the deployment and future use of AI-based solutions, is decided in accordance with the Rules of Business and the policies of Supreme Court of India and respective High Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 126
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

JS(LAP)

✓126 SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons provided legal aid and legal advice through the Legal Services Authorities during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Legal Aid Defence Counsel offices established and functioning in the districts of the country, as on date, State-wise;
- (c) the funds released to the National Legal Services Authority during the said period and the utilisation thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to strengthen legal services for victims of crime, including the compensation disbursed through the Legal Services Authorities during the said period?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 126 FOR REPLY ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING 'ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID' ASKED BY SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM

- (a): The number of persons provided free legal services under Legal Services Authorities Act during the last three financial years, State/UT-wise, are at **Annexure-A**.
- (b): The number of Legal Aid Defense Counsel Offices established and functional in the districts of the country as on 30.06.2026, State/UT-wise, are at **Annexure-B**.
- (c): The details of funds released by Government of India to NALSA with respect to National Legal Aid Fund and Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme and utilization thereof during the last three financial years are as under:

Financial Year	Under Legal Aid Fund (Rs. in Crore)		Under LADCS Scheme (Rs. in Crore)		Total (Rs. in Crore)	
	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
2023-24	400.00#	399.31	-	-	400.00	399.31
2024-25	200.00	197.10	147.92	114.66*	347.92	311.76
2025-26	220.00	219.67	295.83	245.82*	515.83	465.49

Rs. 200 crore out of Rs. 400 was allotted for newly introduced LADCS Scheme since separate budge head was not opened for LADCS Scheme by them.

* Due to some technical glitches under newly introduced TSA/TSA Hybrid module of PFMS, and non-operationalization of LADCS offices in some districts/states, SLSAs and DSLAs could not be utilised complete fund during F.Y. 2024-25 and 2025-26 under the LADCS Scheme.

- (d): Section 396 (1) for Victim compensation scheme of BNSS provides "*Every State Government in coordination with the Central Government shall prepare a scheme for providing funds for the purpose of compensation to the victim or his dependents who have suffered loss or injury as a result of the crime and who require rehabilitation*". Further, Section 396 (2) of BNSS says "*Whenever a recommendation is made by the Court for compensation, the District Legal Service Authority or the State Legal Service Authority, as the case may be, shall decide the quantum of compensation to be awarded under the scheme referred to in sub-section (1)*".

The Legal Services Authorities also award compensation to the victims of crime under Section 396 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 (Section 357-A of erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.), 1973). The role of State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)/District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) is limited to pass award for compensation for the victims of crime under the Victim Compensation Schemes of State Governments.

The details Victim Compensation awarded under Section 396 of BNSS (erstwhile Section 357-A of Cr.P.C) during the last three years from 2023-24 to 2025-26, as per information provided by NALSA, are as under:

Financial Years	Compensation awarded (in Rs.)
2023-24	4,02,90,06,736
2024-25	4,84,67,37,631
2025-26	4,56,17,73,258

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 30.07.2026 regarding 'Access to justice and legal aid'.

Statement showing the number of persons benefited through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 during the financial years 2023-24 to 2025-26.				
S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	220	341	444
2	Andhra Pradesh	8,265	11,266	13,359
3	Arunachal Pradesh	5,696	9,236	9,221
4	Assam	63,749	82,694	1,00,021
5	Bihar	1,51,413	84,505	76,361
6	Chandigarh	2,822	2,951	3,371
7	Chhattisgarh	62,164	80,874	93,882
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55	45	83
	Daman & Diu	34	119	164
9	Delhi	1,21,882	76,526	72,554
10	Goa	1,558	1,889	4,283
11	Gujarat	40,569	50,467	1,14,652
12	Haryana	76,863	82,194	1,35,775
13	Himachal Pradesh	7,346	6,222	6,512
14	Jammu & Kashmir	11,396	18,602	26,330
15	Jharkhand	2,69,303	3,28,365	4,43,757
16	Karnataka	53,406	51,245	65,519
17	Kerala	36,498	26,571	36,168
18	Ladakh	505	324	255
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	14
20	Madhya Pradesh	2,25,510	2,33,009	2,31,101
21	Maharashtra	53,756	59,454	65,065
22	Manipur	62,635	99,062	75,148
23	Meghalaya	2,371	2,754	4,909
24	Mizoram	4,801	3,713	4,789
25	Nagaland	4,603	5,012	11,351
26	Odisha	19,289	22,134	17,749
27	Puducherry	621	616	536
28	Punjab	60,361	65,513	85,128
29	Rajasthan	20,290	22,216	29,181
30	Sikkim	1,074	901	1,143
31	Tamil Nadu	45,180	52,528	55,974
32	Telangana	13,193	16,021	21,104
33	Tripura	9,964	10,303	10,182
34	Uttar Pradesh	29,079	22,732	31,748
35	Uttarakhand	21,339	34,208	52,059
36	West Bengal	62,354	92,914	1,07,884
	Total	15,50,164	16,57,527	20,07,776

Annexure – B

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for answer on 30.07.2026 regarding 'Access to justice and legal aid'.

Statement containing the details of number of Legal Aid Defense Counsel Offices established and functioning throughout the country as on 30.06.2026.

S.No.	Name of State/UT Authority	No. of LADCS offices
1	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	13
3	Arunachal Pradesh	21
4	Assam	33
5	Bihar	37
6	Chandigarh	1
7	Chhattisgarh	23
8	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1
	Daman and Diu	1
9	Delhi	12
10	Goa	2
11	Gujarat	34
12	Haryana	22
13	Himachal Pradesh	11
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20
15	Jharkhand	24
16	Karnataka	30
17	Kerala	14
18	Ladakh	2
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	50
21	Maharashtra	33
22	Manipur	9
23	Meghalaya	11
24	Mizoram	8
25	Nagaland	11
26	Odisha	25
27	Puducherry	2
28	Punjab	22
29	Rajasthan	44
30	Sikkim	2
31	Tamil Nadu	32
32	Telangana	33
33	Tripura	8
34	Uttar Pradesh	74
35	Uttarakhand	13
36	West Bengal	14
	Total	692

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 131
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

VACANCIES OF JUDGES

JS (APPHS.)
✓ 131. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned and actual judge strength in High Courts and subordinate judiciary nationally, as on date;
- (b) the number of vacancies pending for more than one year;
- (c) the status of recommendations made by Collegiums for these vacancies; and
- (d) the expected timeline for filling them up?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *131 FOR ANSWER ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING
VACANCIES OF JUDGES**

(a) to (d): As on 23.07.2026, against the sanctioned strength of 1122, 781 Judges are working in various High Courts.

Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court.

As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level. Hence, the time needed for filling up of vacancies of the Judges in the High Courts cannot be indicated.

Filling up of vacant positions of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts, for the recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts. As on 20.07.2026, the sanctioned strength and Working Strength of Judicial Officers in the District & Subordinate Courts is 30,868 & 23,558, respectively.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1385
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO LEGAL AID

JS(A2J)
✓1385 # SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to strengthen access to legal aid through Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu and other initiatives;
- (b) the extent of implementation of Legal Aid Defense Council Systems including its operational coverage across the country and the legal representations provided thereunder;
- (c) the legal services and outreach programmes implemented through the Legal Services Authorities established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, including the legal aid, awareness and victim compensation initiatives; and
- (d) the details of component-wise beneficiary coverage achieved under the Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) initiative?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) Scheme has been continued as DISHA 2.0 as a Central Sector Scheme for pan India implementation with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 255 Crore for the period of 2026-31. DISHA 2.0 provides an easy, accessible, affordable, technology enabled and people-centric legal services through its components viz. Tele- Law (Reaching the Unreached), Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLLAP). A new

vertical namely VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives)- Sanjeevani has been introduced under the DISHA 2.0.

The Tele-Law connects people with panel lawyers through mobile-app and Toll-Free No. 14454 for rendering free pre-litigation legal advice through use of video/tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the panchayat level. Nyaya Sahayaks, who are active community based legal facilitators, have been engaged in the Aspirational Blocks to strengthen service delivery.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services) Programme promotes a pro bono culture among advocates and law students by facilitating free legal assistance to eligible beneficiaries under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, through the Nyaya Bandhu Portal and Mobile Application. Pro-Bono Panels have been constituted in 23 High Courts, with 1,625 advocates enrolled for State-specific legal support.

Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme (LLAP) focuses on facilitating capacity building of existing grassroots/frontline legal workers/volunteers and spreading legal literacy and legal awareness in the country. Additionally, thematic webinars are also conducted on socio-legal issues such as cybercrime, access to justice, child protection, constitutional challenges, and domestic violence.

VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) - Sanjeevani is envisaged as a key component under DISHA 2.0 to enhance the monitoring mechanism of the scheme through development and operationalization of a centralized Integrated Dashboard. It envisages integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot to facilitate technology-enabled service support and improve user interaction through AI-driven assistance mechanisms.

(b) and (c): As on 31st March, 2026, under the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme, LADC offices are functional in 692 districts at the district level across the country. During the last three financial years (2023-2026), 13,87,460 cases were assigned to LADCs and more than 9.64 lakh cases were disposed-off by LADCs. During the same period, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has organized 14,81,308 Legal Awareness programmes which were attended by more than 12.95 crore persons.

The Legal Services Authorities awards compensation to the victims u/s 396 BNSS (erstwhile 357A Cr.P.C) as per the Victim Compensation Schemes run by State Governments. During financial year 2025-26, 17,814 applications were received and approx. Rs. 456.18 crore

compensation was awarded under Victim Compensation Scheme u/s 357 A Cr. P.C (now Section 396 of BNSS).

(d): The details of component-wise beneficiary coverage under the DISHA Scheme are as under:-

Sr. No.	Programme under DISHA		Number of Beneficiaries (as on 31.03.2026)
1.	Tele-Law	Pre-Litigation Legal Advice given	1,12,74,583
2.	Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-Bono Legal Services)	Advocates registered on the portal	10,375
		Cases registered for pro-bono assistance	5,101
3.	LLLAP	Beneficiary Outreach	1,21,58,459

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN

JS(e-Courts)
1386 # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the major reasons for delay in implementation of e-Courts Mission Mode Project in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government has the district-wise details of the progress achieved so far in the State as compared to the targets prescribed and If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of district and subordinate courts in the State in which facilities such as e-Filing, virtual hearings, digital records management and video conferencing are fully operational; and
- (d) whether Government has prescribed any revised time-frame for completion of pending works under e-Courts Mission Mode Project there and if so, the likely date of completion of the Project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in the State of Rajasthan under the guidance, supervision, and monitoring of Department of Justice, Government of India in coordination with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. As per the information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the High Court of Rajasthan has been taking all necessary administrative and technical measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Project in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and timelines.

Various components of the Project, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure, Case Information System (CIS), video conferencing facilities, e-Filing, eSewa Kendra and other initiatives, are implemented in systematic manner. The progress

of the Project is regularly monitored, and continuous coordination is maintained with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of the Project and to strengthen judicial service delivery through the effective use of ICT.

(b): District-wise implementation status of eCourts Project for different ICT initiatives is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

(c): e-Filing facility is operational in 1471 courts. Virtual hearings/video conferencing facility is operational in 1376 courts. Scanning and Digitization of judicial records is operational in 1425 courts.

(d): The eCourts Project Phase III was initiated in 2023 for a period of 4 years till March 2027. No revised time-frame has been prescribed, so far.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED
QUESTION NO. 1386 FOR 30.07.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF E-
COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT IN RAJASTHAN**

District-wise implementation status of eCourts Project in State of Rajasthan:

S. N.	Name of Court	CIS Implementation	Availability of VC Facility	eSummons (NSTEP & TWARIT)	eFiling and ePay	Scanning & Digitization	ICJS*	eSewa Kendra	Solar	Hardware installation in Court complex and Court
	Target	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	92	109	(Y/N)
1	Ajmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	2	Y
2	Alwar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
3	Barmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	-	Y
4	Banswara	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	2	Y
5	Baran	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	7	Y
6	Bharatpur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-	Y
7	Bhilwara	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	4	Y
8	Bikaner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	2	Y
9	Bundi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	5	Y
10	Chittorgarh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5	10	Y
11	Churu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	2	Y
12	Dausa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	1	Y
13	Dholpur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	1	Y
14	Dungarpur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	4	Y
15	Hanumangarh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	3	Y
16	Jaipur District	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	5	Y
17	Jaipur Metro I	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	4	Y
18	Jaipur Metro II	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	1	Y
19	Jaisalmer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	3	Y
20	Jalore	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	-	Y
21	Jhalawar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	3	Y
22	Jhunjhunu	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	-	Y
23	Jodhpur District	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	-	Y
24	Jodhpur Metro	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	1	Y
25	Karauli	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	1	Y
26	Kota	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	4	Y
27	Merta	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	2	Y
28	Pali	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	5	Y

S. N.	Name of Court	CIS Implementation	Availability of VC Facility	eSummons (NSTEP & TWARIT)	eFiling and ePay	Scanning & Digitization	ICJS*	eSewa Kendra	Solar	Hardware installation in Court complex and Court
	Target	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	(Y/N)	92	109	(Y/N)
29	Pratapgarh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	1	Y
30	Rajsamand	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	3	Y
31	Sawai Madhopur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	3	Y
32	Sikar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	3	Y
33	Sirohi	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	2	Y
34	Sri Ganganagar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	2	Y
35	Tonk	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1	3	Y
36	Udaipur	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	3	Y
37	Beawar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Record of these newly created judgeships is still available at old Judgeship.	Y	1	2	Y
38	Balotra	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	-	2	Y
39	Khairthal-Tijara	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	2	2	Y
40	Kotputli-Behror	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	1	3	Y
41	Deedwana-Kuchaman	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	1	1	Y
42	Deeg	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	-	-	Y
43	Phalodi	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	-	-	Y
44	Salumbar	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	-	1	Y
	Total							50	103	

(Source: eCommittee, Supreme Court of India)

ICJS*: INTER-OPERABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

IS (e-Courts) DIGITIZATION OF JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

✓ 1387 # SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

SHRI BRIJ LAL:

SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI:

SHRI MAYANKKUMAR NAYAK:

SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:

SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress achieved under Phase-III of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project;
- (b) the measures taken to strengthen technology-enabled justice delivery through virtual hearings, e-filing, e-payments and other digital court services;
- (c) the initiative taken to improve the accessibility and efficiency of judicial services through digitization; and
- (d) the expected outcomes of these initiatives in terms of delivering timely justice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner across the country with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. The Phase III (2023-27) envisions a transition towards digital, paperless and more intelligent courts through large-scale digitisation of records, wider use of virtual hearings, deeper interoperability across justice institutions and

adoption of emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI). The details of progress achieved under Phase – III of the project is at **Annexure – I**.

(b) to (d): Besides the progress achieved under Phase – III mentioned at Annexure – I, the other two phases of the eCourts project laid the founding stone of digital judicial ecosystem. Phase I, initiated in 2011, was primarily focused on establishing the basic digital infrastructure of the judiciary. It achieved computerization of 14,249 District and Subordinate Courts, installation of Local Area Network (LAN) in 13,683 courts and software enablement of 13,672 courts for digital case management, video conferencing facilities in 493 courts and 347 jails.

Building upon this groundwork, Phase II, implemented from 2015 to 2023, expanded the scope from basic computerization to providing citizen-centric digital services. The number of computerized courts rose to 18,735, video conferencing facilities expanded to 3,240 courts and 1,272 jails and WAN connectivity reached 99.5% of court complexes. This phase also saw the introduction and upgradation of key platforms such as the Free and Open-Source Case Information System (CIS), the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Judgement & Search Order Portal and the establishment of eSewa Kendras.

Together, these initiatives aim to establish a unified, paperless and digital judicial ecosystem through adoption of advanced technologies and citizen-centric digital services, to strengthen digital case management, information exchange and improve accessibility to judicial services.

Annexure-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387 FOR 30.07.2026 REGARDING DIGITIZATION OF JUSTICE DELIVERY SYSTEM**

The details of progress achieved under eCourts Phase – III:

S.No	Component Name	Achievement
1.	Fully functional eSewa Kendras	1806 established across court complexes
2.	Setting up the infrastructure for paperless courts	474 courts are equipped with the necessary hardware.
3.	Expansion of the Virtual Courts for hearing of court cases by creating the robust digital infrastructure.	538 courts are equipped
4.	Digitisation of the entire court record - both legacy records and fresh filing of cases	753.60 crore pages digitised
5.	Implementation of e-filing of court case	4519 courts
6.	Provision for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing	7553 establishments have VC facilities including courts, jails and hospitals.
7.	Court room live audio-visual streaming system	11 High Courts
8.	Solar facilities for ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure	1626 courts complexes are equipped
9.	Providing National Service & Tracking of electronic Processes (NSTEP) facility	6895 courts have NSTEP facility.
10.	Migration of all High Court and District Court websites to S3WAAS platform	734 courts sites migrated
11.	Additional hardware to courts and judicial officers in Phase II	18380 courts provided
12.	Integration with Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars like courts, police, jails, forensic labs	All High Courts have implemented ICJS
13.	Training of all stakeholders	2372 Trainings held
14.	Knowledge Management	IIT Madras is developing Learning Management System (LMS)
15.	Connectivity	174 Sites connected with Software Defined Wide Area Network (SDWAN) technology

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1388
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

ACCESSIBILITY OF COURTS IN REMOTE DISTRICTS OF ODISHA

JS (e-Courts)
1388 SMT. SULATA DEO:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any review of accessibility of courts in remote and tribal districts of Odisha for litigants, witnesses and advocates; and
- (b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): As per the information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, accessibility of Courts in remote and tribal districts of Odisha is reviewed periodically by the High Court of Orissa and the State Government. The review indicates that digital judicial services have significantly improved access to justice by enabling e-filing, virtual hearings, online access to case status, orders and judgments and other citizen-centric services. Under Phase III of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure is strengthened across the State to enhance accessibility and efficiency of court services, including remote and tribal districts.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1389
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

JS (J-11)
1389 SMT. SULATA DEO:

STRENGTHENING ODISHA JUDICIAL ACADEMY

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has provided financial or technical assistance to strengthen Odisha Judicial Academy during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, the Ministry has provided financial assistance to the Odisha Judicial Academy (OJA) under the **eCourts Project Phase-III** for Capacity Building and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) awareness/Change Management training programmes for judicial officers and other stakeholders through Orissa High Court. As per information received from Orissa High Court, funds allocated to Odisha Judicial Academy during the last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated towards Capacity Building Training Programme and Digital Component of OJA (in Rs.)
1.	2022-23	0
2.	2023-24	3,79,988
3.	2024-25	39,25,231
4.	2025-26	1,82,34,698
5.	2026-27	8,00,000

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1390
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

Admn III
(DoLA)
✓ 1390

STRENGTHENING LAW COMMISSION OF INDIA

DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any comprehensive review of the structure, mandate, functioning and institutional framework of the Law Commission of India with a view to strengthening its effectiveness, research capacity and overall efficiency and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has examined the legislative and institutional frameworks governing the Law Commissions of the Bahamas, Seychelles, Guyana and the United Kingdom, pursuant to representations received, for adoption of suitable global best practices to strengthen the Law Commission of India and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The Government from time to time constitutes the Law Commission of India, usually for a period of three years after examining the requirements and expectations to meet the present and future needs of the legal eco-system. The Law Commission of India is mandated, with the terms of reference when constituted, with a view to strengthen its effectiveness, research capacity and overall efficiency. The Government *vide* order dated 2nd September, 2024 constituted the Twenty-third Law Commission of India. The terms of reference of the present Law Commission, *inter-alia*, include Review/Repeal of obsolete laws, examination of the laws which affect the poor, examination of the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislation as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution. It further mandates to examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto,

and to revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.

(b): Suggestions have been received with respect to adoption of global best practice in relation to the working of the Law Commission. The Government has noted the suggestions received by it and the Twenty-third Law Commission as a part of its mandate is empowered to develop partnership network with reputed Law Universities/Law Schools and policy research institutions in the country and abroad.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1391
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

IS(LAP)
1391 # Shri Ramji Lal Suman:

FORMULA FOR BAIL

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is no fixed formula for granting bail in cases registered under various sections;
- (b) whether the Ministry had asked the Law Commission to enact a law in respect of bail in the year 2015;
- (c) in view of the delay in granting bail to the undertrials lodged in jails, whether the Ministry would consider drafting a formula for granting bail to protect the fundamental right of freedom, as mentioned in Article 21, of the individual, on the basis of which the Courts may grant bail; and
- (d) the details of accused lodged in jails for more than three years, awaiting bail?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Law Commission of India was requested in 2015 by the Government to examine the need for a Bail Act in India. The Law Commission of India in its Report No. 268 forwarded its suggestions with regard to bail reforms in India. After extensive consultations and deliberations with all stakeholders, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bill, 2023 to repeal the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Bill, 2023, to repeal the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023, to repeal the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, were introduced in the Parliament, which were passed by both the Houses of Parliament, assented to by the Hon'ble President of India and notified in the Gazette of India on 25.12.2023. The BNS, 2023, the BNSS, 2023 and BSA, 2023 came into effect from 01st July, 2024.

Sections 478 to 496 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 provides for 'Provisions as to Bail and Bonds'.

Section 479 (1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provides that "Where a person has, during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial under this Sanhita of an offence under any law (not being an offence for which the punishment of death or life imprisonment has been specified as one of the punishments under that law) undergone detention for a period extending up to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence under that law, he shall be released by the Court on bail."

The Proviso under Section 479 (1) of the BNSS provides further relief to first time offenders/undertrial prisoners and provides that "where such person is a first-time offender (who has never been convicted of any offence in the past), he shall be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence under that law." Further, technology based alerts are generated through the ePrisons portal under Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and are sent to concerned officials for taking appropriate action for timely release of undertrial prisoners.

(d): As per the latest data (as on 31.12.2024) provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), there are 29,936 Undertrial Prisoners in jails for more than three years, in the Country.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1393
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HARYANA

JS(A2J)
✓ 1393 # SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an action plan to implement digital legal aid services and the 'Nyaya Setu' chatbot at the district and sub-divisional levels in Haryana under Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has any specific scheme to expand 'VIDHI-Sanjeevani' and other digital legal aid services for rural and vulnerable sections in the State and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any financial assistance has been sanctioned to the State under DISHA 2.0 and the improvement in access to justice and the disposal of pending cases expected in the State as a result thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0 Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme for pan India implementation, including Haryana, with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 255 Crore for the period of 2026-31. DISHA 2.0 aims at leveraging technology to develop and enhance the outreach of citizen friendly solution platforms for legal services. It includes four components viz. Tele-Law: Reaching the Unreached (free pre litigation advice to all); Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono legal Services) Programme; Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programme and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives)-Sanjeevani.

The Tele-Law connects people with panel lawyers through mobile-app and Toll Free No. 14454 for rendering pre-litigation legal advice through use of video/tele conferencing facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs)/Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the panchayat level. Nyaya Sahayaks, who are active community based legal facilitators, have been engaged in the Aspirational Blocks to strengthen service delivery.

Under the Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Programme, interested Pro Bono Advocates are registered and connected to the beneficiaries (who are entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987) through the Nyaya Bandhu Application (available iOS/Android/UMANG Platform) and Nyaya Bandhu web portal.

VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) - Sanjeevani is envisaged as a key component under DISHA 2.0 to enhance the monitoring mechanism of the Scheme through development and operationalization of a Centralized Integrated Dashboard. The dashboard aims to provide a unified interface integrating real-time data streams from multiple sources to facilitate monitoring of the programme performance, service delivery and implementation progress. It envisages integration with the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot to facilitate technology-enabled service support and improve user interaction through AI-driven assistance mechanisms. The Generative AI powered multilingual and multi-model Nyaya Setu chatbot platform helps people throughout the country to understand legal processes, rights, and next steps through simple voice and text interactions across 22 Indian languages through voice-first interface.

DISHA 2.0 Scheme is implemented with 100% Central funding through the Gross Budgetary Support of the Government of India and funds are not allocated State-wise. DISHA 2.0 focuses on legal awareness, free pre-litigation legal advice, legal empowerment and early intervention to prevent disputes from escalating into litigation.

(5)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1394
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

MISSING NAMES IN ELECTORAL ROLLS

Leg. II/D
✓1394 SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several residents of Delhi, who possess valid Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers and have been registered voters even prior to 2002 as well as in subsequent electoral rolls, are unable to find their names in the electoral roll published for the year 2002 for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise;
- (b) whether such discrepancies are causing confusion, anxiety and the risk of exclusion of genuine electors from the revised rolls;
- (c) whether supplementary electoral rolls are yet to be released in Delhi; and
- (d) the steps proposed to prevent their wrongful deletion or disenfranchisement?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi in its Press Note dated 15.05.2026 has published the schedule for the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the NCT of Delhi, and as per the schedule, the final Electoral Roll after the conduct of SIR would be published in October, 2026. As the revision process has not yet been completed, nothing can be said regarding inclusion or exclusion of electors.

Further, the Election Commission of India, from time to time, has clarified that it carries out internal quality checks at each stage of SIR, including cross-verification of BLO enumeration through supervisory officers, random sample audits of deleted entries, and public disclosure of draft and final rolls to enable scrutiny by political parties and electors. Grievances received during the claims and objections period are examined and, where found valid, appropriate action is taken before finalisation of the roll.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1395
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

NOTARY LICENCES

Notary Cell
DoLA

✓ 1395 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications received for appointment and renewal of Notary Certificates of Practice during the last five years, State-wise and district-wise;
- (b) the number of applications approved, rejected and pending during the said period;
- (c) whether delays have been reported in granting approvals and renewals and if so, the reasons therefor and the average time taken for disposal of applications;
- (d) the number of Notary licences suspended or cancelled, State-wise and district-wise, along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken to streamline and expedite the approval and renewal process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Since the year 2021 (as on 28.07.2026), 73,375 online applications were received for appointment as notaries. After considering the pending applications, including those received prior to the year 2021, the Central Government approved appointment of 44,338 legal practitioners as notaries in 28 States/ Union Territories. During the same period, approximately 17,000 certificates of practice of notaries were renewed. The appointment of notaries and renewal of their certificates of practice are governed by the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Applications for appointment and renewal received in the prescribed form and found complete in all respects are disposed of in the ordinary course.

(d): Since 2025 (as on 28.07.2026), certificates of practice of 14 notaries were cancelled or suspended on account of professional or other misconduct in accordance with Rule 13 of the Notaries Rules, 1956. Of these, 2 pertained to the State of West Bengal, 7 to the State of

Maharashtra, 2 to the State of Rajasthan, and 1 each to the States of Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh and 1 to the NCT of Delhi.

(c): In order to further streamline the process of appointment of notaries and renewal of their certificates of practice, a dedicated Notary Portal for the submission and processing of applications for appointment of notaries has been developed and operationalised.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1396
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

JS(e-Courts) **PHASE III OF E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT**
1396 SHRI UJJWAL DEORAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated, released and utilised under Phase III of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project since its commencement, year-wise;
- (b) the number of court complexes provided with e-Sewa Kendras, record digitisation facilities and video conferencing facilities, as on date, State-wise;
- (c) the number of case records digitised and the number of cases heard through video conferencing during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to enable e-filing and paperless functioning in district courts, including in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Details of funds allocated, released and utilised under Phase III of the eCourts Mission Mode Project since its commencement, year-wise are as under:

(Rs in crore)

Funds under eCourts Project Phase III			
Financial year	Allocated		Expenditure
	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	
2023-24	0.01	825.00	768.25
2024-25	1500.00	1200.00	1029.11
2025-26	1500.00	1200.00	717.45
2026-27	1200.00	-	29.00
TOTAL	4200.01	3225.00	2543.81

(As on 21.07.2026)

(b) and (c): Details of number of court complexes provided with e-Sewa Kendras, case records digitised and the number of cases heard through video conferencing during the last three years, High Court wise are at **Annexure – I**.

(d): Under Phase-III of the eCourts Mission Mode Project, several measures have been undertaken to enable e-Filing and paperless functioning in District Courts, including those in Maharashtra. These include universalisation of the e-Filing system, creation of Digital Case Records through digitisation of current and legacy court records, implementation of e-Payments, provision of video conferencing facilities, establishment of eSewa Kendras for assisted access to digital services, and capacity-building programmes for Judicial Officers, court staff and advocates. These initiatives are aimed at establishing a unified, paperless and digital judicial ecosystem to improve the efficiency, accessibility and transparency of judicial services. As on date, 474 courts are equipped with the necessary hardware to make courts paperless. Approximately 1.25 crore cases have been filed through the e-filing platform.

As per information provided by the High Court of Bombay, e-Filing version 3.0 is made operational at the District and Taluka courts in the State of Maharashtra. As per NJDG portal, as on 18.07.2026, 31.16 lakh new cases have been e-filed, 251.96 crore number of documents and 14.51 crore applications have been e-filed in District and Taluka Courts in the State of Maharashtra. On the e-filing Portal, 98,821 advocates have been registered.

As far as paperless courts are concerned, the required hardware has been provided for the establishment of six paperless courts in the State of Maharashtra.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B & C) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1396 FOR ANSWER ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING
PHASE III OF E-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT**

Functional e-Sewa Kendras in High Courts and District Courts, HC-wise (as on 30.06.2026)				
S. No.	High Court	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in High Courts	Functioning e-Sewa Kendras in District Courts	Total
1	Allahabad	3	124	127
2	Andhra Pradesh	4	34	38
3	Bombay	3	351	354
4	Calcutta	1	50	51
5	Chhattisgarh	1	92	93
6	Delhi	1	13	14
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	1	30	31
8	Gauhati - Assam	2	78	80
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	1	8	9
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	1	11	12
11	Gujarat	1	195	196
12	Himachal Pradesh	1	39	40
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	2	25	27
14	Jharkhand	2	62	64
15	Karnataka	3	75	78
16	Kerala	1	161	162
17	Madhya Pradesh	3	233	236
18	Madras	7	310	317
19	Manipur	1	22	23
20	Meghalaya	1	16	17
21	Orissa	1	183	184
22	Patna	1	104	105
23	Punjab and Haryana	1	127	128
24	Rajasthan	2	29	31
25	Sikkim	1	10	11
26	Telangana	1	98	99
27	Tripura	1	16	17
28	Uttarakhand	1	39	40
	Total	49	2535	2584

Source: eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

Number of cases heard through video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts in last 03 years, HC-wise (as on 30.06.2026)					
S. No.	High Court		High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad		8,285	23,07,066	23,15,351
2	Andhra Pradesh		47,971	56,522	1,04,493
3	Bombay		73,972	2,79,793	3,53,765
4	Calcutta		50,580	1,44,771	1,95,351
5	Chhattisgarh		2,333	4,64,251	4,66,584
6	Delhi		6,410	34,95,699	35,02,109
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh		1,759	1,390	3,149
8	Gauhati – Assam		2,315	2,19,932	2,22,247
9	Gauhati – Mizoram		385	2,633	3,018
10	Gauhati - Nagaland		907	901	1,808
11	Gujarat		33,715	73,831	1,07,546
12	Himachal Pradesh		3,057	89,265	92,322
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh		8,275	1,49,334	1,57,609
14	Jharkhand		7,831	1,35,767	1,43,598
15	Karnataka		60,780	75,217	1,35,997
16	Kerala		3,15,478	2,31,507	5,46,985
17	Madhya Pradesh		46,371	4,44,092	4,90,463
18	Madras		1,17,306	1,63,885	2,81,191
19	Manipur		18,750	5,491	24,241
20	Meghalaya		4,128	51,543	55,671
21	Orissa		68,665	1,33,529	2,02,194
22	Patna		7,875	12,87,603	12,95,478
23	Punjab & Haryana		88,612	20,95,168	21,83,780
24	Rajasthan		30,615	1,10,345	1,40,960
25	Sikkim		583	6,529	7,112
26	Telangana		12,49,861	16,034	12,65,895
27	Tripura		12,942	33,892	46,834
28	Uttarakhand		14,068	15,680	29,748
	Total		22,83,829	1,20,91,670	1,43,75,499

Source: eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

Total No. of Pages digitized in High Courts and District Courts in last 3 years, HC-wise (as on 30.06.2026)				
S.No.	Name of High Court	No. of pages digitized in High Court	No. of pages digitized in District Courts	Total No. of pages digitized in High Court & District Court
1	Allahabad	60,28,80,120	203,96,94,596	264,25,74,716
2	Andhra Pradesh	4,45,23,900	25,00,95,608	29,46,19,508
3	Bombay	11,19,91,881	79,42,259	11,99,34,140
4	Calcutta	6,13,40,099	0	6,13,40,099
5	Chhattisgarh	43,10,860	5,34,10,215	5,77,21,075
6	Delhi	23,75,13,960	11,75,68,892	35,50,82,852
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	12,67,159	1,26,322	13,93,481
8	Gauhati – Assam	2,97,53,593	15,58,31,203	18,55,84,796
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	14,13,741	32,53,964	46,67,705
10	Gauhati – Nagaland	13,80,000	6,94,000	20,74,000
11	Gujarat	40,30,364	1,08,70,516	1,49,00,880
12	Himachal Pradesh	96,45,789	36,82,642	1,33,28,431
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	4,21,62,628	3,48,98,361	7,70,60,989
14	Jharkhand	3,60,09,617	1,12,67,023	4,72,76,640
15	Karnataka	6,96,56,018	5,27,62,634	12,24,18,652
16	Kerala	9,16,80,597	2,99,83,249	12,16,63,846
17	Madhya Pradesh	26,29,91,578	75,71,45,995	102,01,37,573
18	Madras	24,16,82,118	26,16,39,811	50,33,21,929
19	Manipur	61,52,642	60,72,695	1,22,25,337
20	Meghalaya	12,50,719	38,92,356	51,43,075
21	Orissa	5,33,13,761	18,84,34,938	24,17,48,699
22	Patna	2,50,36,447	4,29,50,212	6,79,86,659
23	Punjab & Haryana	30,93,00,334	73,26,10,273	104,19,10,607
24	Rajasthan	14,81,32,693	7,09,17,255	21,90,49,948
25	Sikkim	11,92,510	54,78,284	66,70,794
26	Telangana	14,12,09,619	8,89,40,761	23,01,50,380
27	Tripura	77,05,872	7,53,073	84,58,945
28	Uttarakhand	2,94,29,510	2,81,34,071	5,75,63,581
	Total	257,69,58,129	495,90,51,208	753,60,09,337

Source: eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1397
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

DELETION OF NAMES IN SIR

Leg II
LD
✓1397 SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the United Nations Special Rapporteur expressing concerns regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls;
- (b) whether Government has examined the large-scale deletion of names from electoral rolls, especially among the minority communities and if so, the details thereof, State-wise and community-wise; and
- (c) the number of objections received against such deletions, State-wise and community-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): It has come to the notice that the United Nations Special Rapporteur, has highlighted the large-scale removal of the names from electoral rolls through a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process led by the Election Commission of India (ECI), particularly in state of West Bengal. The ECI under article 324 of the Constitution, is responsible for the supervision, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections for Parliament and State Legislatures. In past the process of SIR has been carried out by the ECI. Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has upheld the ECI's power to conduct SIR. Over the years rapid urbanization, migration for education or employment, and other socio-economic changes have led to frequent shifting of residence. Many electors register in a new constituency and their names continue to be on the prior rolls also, resulting

in duplicate or incorrect entries. In order to address these issues SIR is carried out by following the due process of law without prejudice to any group or community.

Further, the ECI, from time to time, has clarified that it carries out internal quality checks at each stage of SIR, including cross-verification of BLO enumeration through supervisory officers, random sample audits of deleted entries, and public disclosure of draft and final rolls to enable scrutiny by political parties and electors. Grievances received during the claims and objections period are examined and, where found valid, appropriate action is taken before finalisation of the roll.

Even after the finalisation of the Electoral rolls, appeal can be preferred with the concerned District Magistrate and thereafter with the concerned Chief Electoral Officer in accordance with section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1398
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

VACANCY OF JUDGES

JS(NHJR-1)

✓1398 SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sanctioned and vacant posts for judges in High Courts and subordinate judiciary across India;
- (b) the sanctioned versus working strength of judges and judicial officers in Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the impact of these vacancies on pendency of cases;
- (d) the steps being taken, in coordination with High Courts, to fill these vacancies expeditiously; and
- (e) the status of 'All India Judicial Service'?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per data available on the Nyaya Vikas Portal 2.0, the numbers of sanctioned and vacant posts for judges in High Courts and subordinate judiciary across India are as under:

Name of Court	Sanctioned strength	Vacancy
High Courts (as on 01.07.2026)	1122	341
District & Subordinate Courts (as on 24.07.2026)	30868	7311

The sanctioned versus working strength of judges and judicial officers in Uttar Pradesh is as follows:

Name of Court	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
Judges of Allahabad High Court (as on 01.07.2026)	160	107
Judicial Officers in District & Subordinate Courts (as on 24.07.2026)	3700	2618

(c) & (d): Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors besides availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers. These factors include, inter alia, complexity of the facts involved, quality of investigation, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and litigants, availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc.

Filling up of the vacancy in the higher Judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level which are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

(e): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS), excluding posts below the rank of District Judge. The proposal has been examined at various stages and has been recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission (Justice Shetty Commission) as well as by the Law Commission of India in its 14th (1958), 77th (1978) and 116th (1986) Reports. A comprehensive proposal approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November 2012 was considered in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices in April 2013, where it was decided that further deliberations were required and views of State Governments and High Courts were sought. However, divergent opinions emerged among stakeholders on the constitution of the AIJS.

The matter was further deliberated in conferences and meetings held in April 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate mechanisms within the existing system to fill vacancies of District Judges expeditiously. In view of the continuing divergence of opinion among key stakeholders, no consensus has yet been reached on the establishment of the All India Judicial Service.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1399
ANSWERED ON – 30/07/2026

JS (APPHs.) CREATION OF ALL INDIA JUDICIAL SERVICE (AIJS)

✓ 1399 SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has felt any need for creation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish AIJS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS.

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (e): Article 312 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS), which shall not include any post inferior to that of a District Judge.

A comprehensive proposal was formulated for the constitution of an All India Judicial Service (AIJS) and the same was approved by the Committee of Secretaries in November, 2012. The proposal was included as an agenda item in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2013 and it was decided that the issue needs further deliberation and consideration. The views of the State Governments and High Courts were sought on the proposal. There was divergence of opinion among the State Governments and among the High Courts on the constitution of an All India Judicial Service.

The matter regarding creation of a Judicial Service Commission to help the recruitment to the post of district judges and review of selection process of judges/ judicial officers at all levels was also included in the agenda for the Chief Justices' Conference, which was held on 03rd and 04th April, 2015, wherein it was resolved to leave it open to the respective High Courts to evolve appropriate methods within the existing system to fill up the vacancies for appointment of District judges expeditiously. The proposal for constitution of All India Judicial Service with views from the High Courts and State Governments received thereon was also included in the agenda for the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 05th April, 2015. However, no progress was made in the matter.

The proposal of setting up of an All India Judicial Service was again discussed on points of eligibility, age, selection criteria, qualification, reservations etc. in a meeting chaired by then Minister of Law and Justice on 16th January 2017 in the presence of Minister of State for Law and Justice, Attorney General for India, Solicitor General of India, Secretaries of Department of Justice, Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department. Setting up AIJS was also deliberated in a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee in March, 2017 and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs on 22.02.2021.

It was proposed to include the issue of All India Judicial Service in the agenda for Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 30th April, 2022. However, the same could not be included in the agenda of the conference. In view of the existing divergence of opinion amongst the major stakeholders, at present, there is no consensus on the proposal for setting up an All India Judicial Service.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 197
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

JS (APPHS.)

POSTS AND VACANCIES IN COURTS

✓ 197 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of sanctioned and vacant judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts;
- (b) the present vacancy levels in the Punjab and Haryana High Court and its subordinate judiciary;
- (c) whether any study has been undertaken to assess how judicial delays due to vacancies impact economic and civil cases in States like Punjab; and
- (d) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies in a fast track manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 197 FOR ANSWER ON 06.08.2026 REGARDING POSTS
AND VACANCIES IN COURTS.**

(a) and (b): As on 31.07.2026, the sanctioned strength and vacancies of judges in Supreme Court, High Courts and subordinate courts are as follows:

Court	Sanctioned strength	Vacancies
Supreme Court	38 (including the Chief Justice of India)	3
High Courts	1122	341
Subordinate Courts	30,868	7,311

As on 31.07.2026, against strength of 85 Judges, 55 Judges are working in the Punjab & Haryana High Court. As on 30.07.2026 against a sanctioned strength of 834 Judges, 696 Judges are working in District and Subordinate Courts in Punjab.

(c) and (d): Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Government and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

Appointment of Judges in the higher judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level.

Filling up of vacant positions of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the respective High Courts and State Governments. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers in the respective State Judicial Service. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has *inter-alia*, stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts, for the recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, *inter-alia*, includes amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to justice and greater transparency under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, better infrastructure for courts, 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.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2189
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

E-LOK ADALAT

✓ JS(LAP)

2189 # SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

SHRI RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA:

SHRI TARUN CHUGH:

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

SMT. SADHNA SINGH:

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI:

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

SHRI KANAD PURKAYASTHA:

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases taken up and disposed of through e-Lok Adalats during the last three years, State-wise and year wise;
- (b) the total amount of monetary settlement arrived through e-Lok Adalats during the said period;
- (c) the States/Union Territories where e-Lok Adalats have been introduced or expanded during the said period; and
- (d) the further steps proposed to expand this initiative across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The concept of e-Lok Adalat was introduced for the first time during the period of Covid pandemic when physical functioning of Courts had become difficult. In e-Lok Adalat, the technology has been used to its maximum advantage and it has become platform

to deliver justice at the door step of people. The first e-Lok Adalat was held on 27.06.2020 and since then e-Lok Adalats have been organized by various Legal Services Authorities (LSAs). The State/UT-wise details of cases taken up, cases disposed of and amount of monetary settlement arrived (both in pre-litigation and pending cases) in e-Lok Adalats during the last three financial years are at **Annexure-A**.

After pandemic the LSAs have adapted the use of technology and digital platforms in organizing National Lok Adalats. They are leveraging technology for e-Lok Adalats. The steps taken by Legal Services Authorities to promote e-Lok Adalat include preparation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), technical training to Officers / Court Staff, and use of online platforms like Microsoft Teams, Vidyo App, WhatsApp, Zoom Cloud meetings application etc.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2189 FOR ANSWER ON 06.08.2026 REGARDING 'E-LOK ADALAT'.

**Details of cases taken up, disposed of and Amount of Monetary settlement arrived during last three financial years
2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26**

S.No	Name of the State Authority	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26		
		Total Cases		Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)	Total Cases		Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)	Total Cases		Total Settlement amount (In Rs.)
		Taken Up	Disposed Of		Taken Up	Disposed Of		Taken Up	Disposed Of	
1.	Chhattisgarh	2,954	765	5,05,63,131	572	496	5,67,64,723	21,113	21,072	10,08,00,000
2.	Delhi	1,289	1,289	3,50,94,214	0	0	0	1,080	876	3,84,25,689
3.	Gujarat	14,22,301	9,13,564	50,51,48,092	15,82,964	12,09,542	66,64,05,138	25,49,358	19,07,485	1,28,58,46,284
4.	Karnataka	21,562	16,118	21,16,75,192	15,559	14,908	22,47,76,847	6,02,169	6,01,660	2,24,15,28,164
5.	Maharashtra	4,50,23,478	12,35,187	1,78,59,82,711	1,20,27,518	13,16,929	3,05,34,76,799	7,62,767	6,47,269	1,52,34,83,708
6.	Uttar Pradesh	1,60,285	1,23,193	5,13,39,627	57,997	30,350	32,79,563	9,119	4,541	26,77,319
	Grand Total	4,66,31,769	22,90,116	2,63,98,02,967	1,36,84,611	25,72,225	4,00,47,03,070	39,45,606	31,82,903	5,19,27,61,164

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2191
ANSWERED ON – 06/08/2026

JS (NMJR-1) CASES UNDER PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES ACT
✓ 2191 PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 that have reached the High Courts and the Supreme Court by way of appeal, revision, transfer petition since the said Act was enacted, year-wise;
- (b) the number of such cases in which the judgment of trial court has been affirmed, modified, set aside by the appellate courts;
- (c) the average time taken for disposal of such cases by the High Courts and the Supreme Court; and
- (d) whether Government maintains data regarding movement and disposal of cases under the Act across different levels of judicial system and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): The responsibility of maintaining law and order, investigating offences, preventing crimes and protecting the lives and property of citizens, including members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, rests with the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government issues advisories from time to time to States and UTs for strengthening the criminal justice system with special emphasis on preventing crimes against SCs and STs.

The data regarding cases that have reached the High Courts and the Supreme Court by way of appeal, revision, transfer petition are not centrally maintained. Further, no time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the appellate courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants.

However, as per *Crime in India 2024* report published by NCRB, a total of 55,685 cases relating to crimes against Scheduled Castes and 9,961 cases relating to crimes against Scheduled Tribes were registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act during 2024. The conviction rate under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act during 2024 was 33.9% in respect of cases relating to Scheduled Castes and 33.2% in respect of cases relating to Scheduled Tribes.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2192
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

Judicial sec
DLA

PROACTIVE LITIGATION MANAGEMENT

✓ 2192 # SHRI NARESH BANSAL:
SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA:
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:
SHRI RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of planned automation of litigation-related processes, including processing of Advocate Bills;
- (b) the specific Departments where AI and data visualisation tools have been deployed for proactive litigation management;
- (c) the number of repetitive or avoidable cases identified and withdrawn through this mechanism; and
- (d) the reduction achieved in Government litigation costs as a result thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): At present, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not being used in litigation-related processes, including the processing of Advocates' Bills. However, steps are being taken to develop and implement automated and AI-enabled litigation management systems to improve the efficiency of handling Government litigation.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2193
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

DELAYS IN DELIVERY OF JUSTICE

JS(NMJR-1)

2193 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that written orders are not being issued for several days after the pronouncement of oral orders in courts due to shortage of staff;
- (b) the details of vacant posts in subordinate courts and High Courts in the country;
- (c) the details of posts of subordinate staff filled during the last five years; and
- (d) whether people awaiting justice are facing delays in receiving justice due to shortage of adequate subordinate staff?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Filling up of vacancies of court staff in High Courts and District Courts does not fall under the purview of the Central Government. As per the extant provision under Article(s) 227 and 235 of the Constitution of India, the power of superintendence and control over a district court and courts subordinate thereto is vested in the respective High Court. Central Government has not conducted any study on the impact of any shortage of staff in the Courts.

As per data available, 341 posts of Judges and 7311 posts of Judicial Officers are vacant in High Courts and Subordinate Courts respectively as on 30.07.2026. The information regarding details of posts of subordinate staff filled during the last five years is not centrally maintained.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2194
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

JS(J-1) SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES IN CASES OF SEXUAL OFFENCE
✓2194 SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of Supreme Court's recent observation in July, 2026 on the need for sensitivity when dealing with cases of sexual offences;
- (b) the salient feature of guidelines prepared by the National Judicial Academy;
- (c) whether Government has circulated the report of National Judicial Academy with relevant stakeholders including State Governments; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Ministry for the effective adoption of such guidelines across judicial and law and order institutions across the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Yes, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgment dated 14.07.2026 in *Suo Motu Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 1 of 2025*, while dealing with a case involving sexual offences, emphasized the need for compassion, empathy and sensitivity in judicial processes concerning victims and other vulnerable persons. The Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that judicial decisions must embody the values of compassion, humanity and understanding, which are indispensable to the administration of a fair, responsive, and effective system of justice. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has accepted the report submitted by the Committee of Experts constituted through the National Judicial Academy.

The guidelines in the form of a report prepared by the National Judicial Academy pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeks to promote a gender-sensitive and trauma-informed approach in judicial proceedings, particularly in cases involving sexual offences. The thrust of these Guidelines is to prevent secondary victimization caused by insensitive cross-examination, while fostering empathy, dignity, and fairness in the administration of justice through judicial training and awareness. The salient features of the report include, inter alia:

- Outlines the evolving constitutional and judicial principles of gender justice, emphasizing dignity, equality, privacy, bodily integrity, and autonomy. This would primarily help the stakeholders of criminal justice system to proceed in gender related cases in a sensitive and dignified manner.
- Provides practical guidance in conducting cross-examination in such cases, including safeguards against reliance to the survivor's sexual history and other impermissible considerations.
- Promotes progressive judicial approaches in identifying the areas of potential gender biases and prejudices in investigation and adjudication processes.
- Recommends the use of gender-sensitive and respectful language in judicial orders and judgments.
- Encourages compassionate, trauma-informed, and victim-centric courtroom practices that preserve the dignity and privacy of all stakeholders.

The judgment in *Suo Moto Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 1 of 2025* and *Judgment in Miscellaneous Application No. 1998 of 2026 in Suo Moto Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 1/2025* and the Publication '*JUDGMENTS AND GENDER (Sensitivity and compassion in writing judgments)*' have been made available on the website of the Supreme Court of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 272
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

Judicial Section
(DdLA)

PENDENCY OF CASES ORIGINATING FROM ODISHA

✓ 272 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases in which the Central Government is a party before the Supreme Court, the High Court of Orissa and Tribunals arising from Odisha, Ministry-wise;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any review to identify repetitive or avoidable litigation originating from the State; and
- (c) the measures taken to reduce Government litigation and improve dispute resolution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 272 FOR REPLY ON 13.08.2026 REGARDING PENDENCY OF CASES ORIGINATING FROM ODISHA

(a): As per data available in LIMBS (Legal Information Management & Briefing System) portal, the Central Government is party in 25,294 cases before the Supreme Court. In respect of the Odisha High Court, the total number of cases where Central Government is party is 9398. Specific tribunal data pertaining to matters arising from Odisha is not separately available on the LIMBS portal. The Ministry wise data as available on the LIMBS portal is given at **Annexure 1** and **Annexure 2** respectively.

(b) and (c): The Government has undertaken various measures to identify and address repetitive and avoidable litigation and to reduce litigation and improve dispute resolution, including by issuance of the "Directive for the Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation by the Government of India". It provides inter-alia, for analysis of pending cases, identification of recurring litigation and root causes of adverse outcomes, with a view to taking corrective measures. The Directive specifically recognises recurrent litigation as an area requiring systematic review and seeks to address systemic issues, including gaps in the legislative framework and infirmities in executive action. They also encourage the use of Alternate Dispute Resolution, proper use of LIMBS (Legal Information Management & Briefing System), and avoidance of filing of appeals in routine.

ANNEXURE-1**TOTAL REPORT OF SUPREME COURT AND TRIBUNAL CASES, NOT SPECIFIC TO STATE OF ORISSA (As on 05/08/2026)**

S.NO.	MINISTRY WISE	SUPREME COURT CASES	TRIBUNALS CASES
1	AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE	52	681
2	AYUSH	55	259
3	CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS	31	71
4	CIVIL AVIATION	53	88
5	COAL	107	237
6	COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	154	434
7	COMMUNICATIONS/DEPARTMENT OF POSTS	81	8069
8	COMMUNICATIONS/DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION	381	4729
9	COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA	142	7021
10	CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION	61	93
11	CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(FCI)	280	476
12	COOPERATION	5	2
13	CORPORATE AFFAIRS	381	1162
14	CULTURE	57	695
15	DEFENCE	1256	64211
16	DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY	29	292
17	DEPARTMENT OF SPACE	6	193
18	DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION	0	6
19	EARTH SCIENCE	6	118
20	EDUCATION	580	1740
21	ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	76	318
22	ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE	458	1374
23	EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	29	142
24	FINANCE	16709	112034
25	FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING	32	99
26	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES	2	1
27	HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	444	2366
28	HEAVY INDUSTRIES	7	7
29	HOME AFFAIRS	988	1425
30	HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS	285	1160
31	INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING	64	976

32	JAL SHAKTI(DEPT.OF WATER RESOURCES)	97	445
33	JAL SHAKTI(DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION)	0	0
34	LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT	339	16030
35	LAW AND JUSTICE	181	88
36	MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	18	185
37	MINES	53	321
38	MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS	660	40241
39	MINORITY AFFAIRS	31	12
40	NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY	4	10
41	PANCHAYATI RAJ	0	1
42	PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS	1	0
43	PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS	196	1758
44	PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS	20	3
45	PORTS SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS	156	307
46	POWER	135	235
47	ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	153	196
48	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	36	22
49	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	12	190
50	SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	6	118
51	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	155	67
52	STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	7	149
53	STEEL	12	75
54	TEXTILES	34	221
55	TOURISM	0	129
56	TRIBAL AFFAIRS	39	18
57	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	114	61
58	YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS	24	199
	TOTAL	25,294	2,71,560

ANNEXURE-2**MINISTRY-WISE BREAKUP OF THE HIGH COURT ORISSA (PENDING CASES)
as on 05-08-2026**

S.NO.	MINISTRY	COUNT
1	AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE	75
2	AYUSH	23
3	CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS	8
4	CIVIL AVIATION	3
5	COAL	141
6	COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY	33
7	COMMUNICATION TELECOMMUNICATION (DoT)	78
8	COMMUNICATIONS (DoP)	194
9	COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA	1213
10	CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION	7
11	CORPORATE AFFAIRS	574
12	CULTURE	43
13	DEFENCE	335
14	DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY	22
15	DEPARTMENT OF SPACE	0
16	DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION	0
17	EARTH SCIENCES	0
18	EDUCATION (MoE)	358
19	ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	19
20	ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE	139
21	EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	28
22	FINANCE	2118
23	FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING	15
24	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES	2
25	HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	138
26	HEAVY INDUSTRIES	1
27	HOME AFFAIRS	633
28	HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS	23
29	INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING	27
30	JAL SHAKTI(DEPT OF WATER RESOURCES)	19
31	JAL SHAKTI(DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION)	0
32	LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT	993
33	LAW AND JUSTICE	6
34	MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES	63
35	MINES	142
36	MINORITY AFFAIRS	1
37	NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY	2

38	PANCHAYATI RAJ	0
39	PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS	0
40	PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS	69
41	PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS	0
42	PORTS SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS	208
43	POWER	13
44	RAILWAYS	1317
45	ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS	46
46	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	11
47	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	15
48	SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP	14
49	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT	69
50	STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION	1
51	STEEL	45
52	TEXTILES	12
53	TOURISM	3
54	TRIBAL AFFAIRS	61
55	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	23
56	YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS	15
	TOTAL	9398

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 281
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

LEGAL AID FOR UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS

JS(LAP)

✓ 281 SHRI A. A. RAHIM:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and percentage of undertrial prisoners in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the number and percentage of undertrial prisoners who have availed free legal aid during the same period, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government maintains data on undertrial prisoners disaggregated by SC, ST, OBC and minority categories and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, whether Government proposes to collect and publish it to assess disparities in access to justice; and
- (e) the specific measures taken to ensure timely legal representation and prevent prolonged detention of undertrial prisoners?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 281 FOR REPLY ON 13.08.2026 REGARDING 'LEGAL AID FOR UNDERTRIAL PRISONERS' ASKED BY SHRI A.A. RAHIM.

(a) to (e): As per the latest data (as on 31.12.2024) provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, the number and percentage of undertrial prisoners State-wise for the last three years is at **Annexure-A**. As per information provided by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), all persons in custody are entitled to get free legal aid under Section 12 of Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987. The number of persons in custody who availed free legal aid during the last three financial years, State-wise, is at **Annexure-B**. As per the latest data (as on 31.12.2024) provided by NCRB, Ministry of Home Affairs, the details of undertrial prisoners category-wise (SC, ST, OBC and others) is at **Annexure-C**.

'Prisons and Prisoners' is a State-list subject under Entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the administration and management of prisons and prisoners is the responsibility of respective State Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments in this regard. Several initiatives are undertaken by the Central Government to operationalize bail reforms. Section 479 (1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) provides that "Where a person has, during the period of investigation, inquiry or trial under this Sanhita of an offence under any law (not being an offence for which the punishment of death or life imprisonment has been specified as one of the punishments under that law) undergone detention for a period extending up to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence under that law, he shall be released by the Court on bail." Further, technology based alerts are generated through the ePrisons portal under Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and are sent to concerned officials for taking appropriate action for timely release of undertrial prisoners.

With the objective of providing financial assistance to poor prisoners, who are unable to pay the fine imposed on them or are unable to secure bail due to financial constraints, the Government is implementing a scheme named "Support to Poor Prisoners". The guidelines and SOP for implementation of the Scheme, has provision for bail assistance amounting upto Rs. 1 lakh, prescribing timelines for case processing, and simplification of procedures for drawal and utilisation of funds. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has taken initiatives for establishment of Under Trial Review Committees (UTRCs) in all the districts to recommend for release of eligible undertrial prisoners and convicts. Quarterly meetings are held by UTRCs across the country.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 281 for answer on 13.08.2026 regarding 'Legal aid for undertrial prisoners'.

Number of Persons in Custody benefited through Legal Services provided under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987				
S.No.	Name of State Legal Services Authority	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	26	64	3
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,989	2,220	3,289
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,582	1,440	1,330
4	Assam	9,556	17,711	25,489
5	Bihar	37,872	34,778	31,677
6	Chandigarh	654	418	780
7	Chhattisgarh	11,693	14,601	21,610
8	Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	10	22	31
9	Delhi	29,370	24,794	18,630
10	Goa	281	232	314
11	Gujarat	7,882	10,184	10,862
12	Haryana	30,973	35,367	66,229
13	Himachal Pradesh	650	725	703
14	Jammu & Kashmir	722	1,184	1,299
15	Jharkhand	9,542	19,352	33,281
16	Karnataka	7,102	8,647	8,972
17	Kerala	3,961	5,653	3,473
18	Ladakh	2	0	43
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	53,796	58,171	93,264
21	Maharashtra	8,573	20,687	20,535
22	Manipur	1,161	282	498
23	Meghalaya	916	865	877
24	Mizoram	1,147	599	676
25	Nagaland	620	628	499
26	Odisha	4,165	4,473	11,536
27	Puducherry	135	71	100
28	Punjab	20,213	24,764	33,615
29	Rajasthan	3,528	11,000	13,064
30	Sikkim	376	218	167
31	Tamil Nadu	9,501	8,989	12,088
32	Telengana	5,283	4,258	5,635
33	Tripura	344	1,115	1,588
34	Uttar Pradesh	7,838	7,328	6,979
35	Uttarakhand	2,961	14,701	19,420
36	West Bengal	15,545	18,383	24,398
	Total	2,89,969	3,53,924	4,72,954

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 281 for answer on 13.08.2026 regarding 'Legal aid for undertrial prisoners'.

State/UT-wise Undertrials Prisoners and percentage of share in total Prison Inmates							
Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2022		2023		2024	
		Undertrials	% Share	Undertrials	% Share	Undertrials	% Share
1.	A & N Islands	173	67.1	168	45.0	168	42.5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5,123	70.6	5,568	70.6	5,705	72.6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	184	54.9	188	52.2	242	51.7
4.	Assam	8,608	74.3	7,546	70.8	8,144	69.8
5.	Bihar	57,537	88.6	46,529	87.7	45,339	87.2
6.	Chandigarh	832	69.6	718	67.2	610	65.0
7.	Chhattisgarh	12,820	62.7	11,520	62.5	12,478	66.4
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	162	92.0	134	92.4	111	97.4
9.	Delhi	16,759	90.6	17,834	88.8	17,178	88.0
10.	Goa	572	84.0	476	83.8	519	84.4
11.	Gujarat	11,129	67.0	11,549	66.9	12,286	69.2
12.	Haryana	19,279	75.7	19,292	74.7	19,015	76.8
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1,926	66.9	1,827	64.9	1,942	65.1
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	4,587	86.3	4,568	84.6	4,552	84.6
15.	Jharkhand	14,786	75.4	13,584	72.0	11,232	69.3
16.	Karnataka	12,605	77.8	11,723	76.9	10,908	75.5
17.	Kerala	5,610	63.2	6,064	61.1	6,148	59.6
18.	Ladakh	26	86.7	42	91.3	41	80.4
19.	Lakshadweep	6	100.0	3	100.0	5	100.0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	26,877	55.0	22,964	50.4	23,132	51.3
21.	Maharashtra	32,883	80.1	32,438	79.5	31,523	80.8
22.	Manipur	592	69.2	416	77.8	326	72.4
23.	Meghalaya	829	72.9	881	68.7	918	65.3
24.	Mizoram	1,049	66.4	1,247	63.7	917	58.9
25.	Nagaland	302	64.4	432	73.1	363	70.6
26.	Odisha	16,058	84.7	14,778	81.3	12,879	77.5
27.	Puducherry	210	65.0	304	71.4	229	68.8
28.	Punjab	24,198	78.6	24,503	77.7	23,922	78.0
29.	Rajasthan	19,233	78.0	17,263	75.9	18,176	74.8
30.	Sikkim	268	69.3	171	53.8	151	50.0
31.	Tamil Nadu	11,564	61.5	12,351	62.6	13,274	65.1
32.	Telangana	4,221	65.0	3,799	64.9	5,002	73.8
33.	Tripura	735	61.6	847	63.7	1,261	71.6
34.	Uttar Pradesh	94,131	77.4	73,491	74.3	59,194	68.2
35.	Uttarakhand	4,722	68.9	4,398	63.9	3,256	58.7
36.	West Bengal #	23,706	82.3	20,294	78.7	20,294	78.7
	Total	4,34,302	75.8	3,89,910	73.5	3,71,440	72.6

* As per data provided by States/UTs.

Due to non-receipt of data from West Bengal for 2024, data furnished for 2023 has been used.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 281 for answer on 13.08.2026 regarding 'Legal aid for undertrial prisoners'.

State/UT and Category-wise Number of Undertrial Prisoners as on 31.12.2024						
S.No.		SC	ST	OBC	Others	Total
1.	A & N Islands	0	12	7	149	168
2.	Andhra Pradesh	984	1,138	1,791	1,792	5,705
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	242
4.	Assam	862	904	2,535	3,843	8,144
5.	Bihar	8,728	1,795	24,921	9,895	45,339
6.	Chandigarh	259	0	121	230	610
7.	Chhattisgarh	2,330	4,035	4,221	1,892	12,478
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	20	15	27	49	111
9.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	17,178
10.	Goa	48	65	64	342	519
11.	Gujarat	1,329	2,130	5,548	3,279	12,286
12.	Haryana	4,958	1,112	5,548	7,397	19,015
13.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	1,942
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	221	586	237	3,508	4,552
15.	Jharkhand	1,646	3,140	3,988	2,458	11,232
16.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	10,908
17.	Kerala	864	206	3,672	1,406	6,148
18.	Ladakh	0	18	1	22	41
19.	Lakshadweep	0	4	0	1	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	4,527	4,439	8,699	5,467	23,132
21.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	31,523
22.	Manipur	0	63	87	176	326
23.	Meghalaya	55	652	32	179	918
24.	Mizoram	52	813	7	45	917
25.	Nagaland	26	255	49	33	363
26.	Odisha	3,274	2,921	3,833	2,851	12,879
27.	Puducherry	43	0	184	2	229
28.	Punjab	5,798	1,144	3,159	13,821	23,922
29.	Rajasthan	3,412	1,698	7,199	5,867	18,176
30.	Sikkim	27	36	57	31	151
31.	Tamil Nadu	3,859	275	8,461	679	13,274
32.	Telangana	1,036	591	2,550	825	5,002
33.	Tripura	183	251	141	686	1,261
34.	Uttar Pradesh	14,777	5,016	20,613	18,788	59,194
35.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	3,256
36.	West Bengal #	2,437	840	2,442	14,575	20,294
	Total	61,755	34,154	1,10,194	1,00,288	3,71,440

* As per data provided by States/UTs.

§ States/UTs did not provide breakup.

Due to non-receipt of data from West Bengal for 2024, data furnished for 2023 has been used.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2978
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

JS(NHJR-11) **WOMEN FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE IN COURTS**

✓ 2978 SMT. RAJATHI:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any guideline for providing women-friendly infrastructure including separate bar rooms, childcare facilities and feeding rooms;
- (b) whether the Ministry has undertaken any assessment regarding the availability of such facilities in courts; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure women-friendly infrastructure in courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for Judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State and UT Governments, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94. There are five components covered under the Scheme viz. Court Hall, Residential units for Judicial officers, Lawyers' Hall, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

Specific aspects including the women-friendly infrastructure in the court halls are within the domain of the High Courts and State Governments. The Building Infrastructure Committee of High Court approves the design of the court halls and projects funded under the CSS. However, the CSS guidelines provide norms and specifications for court halls, which are based on the recommendations of the National Courts Management System (NCMS) Committee of the Supreme Court and norms and practices followed by different States and the CPWD.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2979
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

REDUCING PENDENCY OF CASES

JS(J-11)

2979 SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to reduce the pendency of cases in courts;
- (b) the number of Fast Track Courts functioning;
- (c) whether additional courts are proposed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter alia, include availability of an adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants. However, the Government is fully committed to the speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, includes amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to justice and greater transparency under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, better infrastructure for courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, enactment of New Criminal Laws, establishment of Fast Track Special Courts, promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism and emphasis on human resource development.

(b) to (d): The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set up by the States/UTs in consultation with the respective High Courts for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases, as per their requirements and availability of resources. As per information received from the High Courts, 884 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are given at Annexure.

State/UT-wise functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) as on 30.06.2026

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Functional FTC
1	Andhra Pradesh	21
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	17
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0
9	Delhi	26
10	Goa	4
11	Gujarat	54
12	Haryana	6
13	Himachal Pradesh	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8
15	Jharkhand	40
16	Karnataka	0
17	Kerala	0
18	Ladakh	0
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0
21	Maharashtra	117
22	Manipur	6
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	2
25	Nagaland	0
26	Odisha	0
27	Puducherry	1
28	Punjab	7
29	Rajasthan	0
30	Sikkim	2
31	Tamil Nadu	73
32	Telangana	0
33	Tripura	2
34	Uttar Pradesh	373
35	Uttarakhand	7
36	West Bengal	88
	TOTAL	884

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2980
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS OF BIHAR

JS(NMTR-1)

✓2980 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the increasing pendency of civil and criminal cases in subordinate courts across Bihar;
- (b) whether shortages of judicial officers, court infrastructure and digital facilities have contributed to delays in justice delivery;
- (c) the measures taken in coordination with the State Government to improve judicial infrastructure and case management systems; and
- (d) whether a time-bound action plan has been prepared to reduce pendency in Bihar's subordinate courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 07.08.2026, there are 37,81,445 cases (5,47,036 civil and 32,34,409 criminal) pending in District & Subordinate Courts across Bihar.

(b) to (d): Filling up of vacant positions of the Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and High Courts concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers. At present, the Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers in Bihar is 2,030. It has been informed by the Patna High Court that there is shortage of 174 Court Halls vis a vis the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers. However, the availability of Court Halls and Residential Quarters is more than the Judicial Officers' working strength, which is 374 less than the sanctioned strength.

The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Courts rests with the State Government. As per information received from the Patna High Court, State Judicial Infrastructure Authority (SJIA) Committee has been constituted for monitoring the infrastructure facilities of the Subordinate Courts of Bihar. The Committee convenes meetings from time to time with the concerned authorities of the State Government. However, to augment the resources of States/UTs, Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94. The Scheme covers five components, namely, Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms. Under the said Scheme, Central funds amounting to Rs. 663.06 cr have been provided to the State of Bihar since inception of the Scheme. In the current financial year (FY 2026-27), tentative allocation of Rs. 50.88 cr for Bihar has been done, out of which Mother sanction for Rs. 25.44 cr has been issued.

The Government of India, in coordination with the e-Committee of Supreme Court, has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project. Under the Project, 2204 courts have been computerized in Bihar. In addition, various other initiatives have been taken, which include e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fee/fines, Case Information System for better case management, National Service and Tracking of Electronics Process system for summons/court notices, Video Conferencing facility in 1373 establishments (including courts, jails, hospitals), digitization of over 6.79 crore pages of court record, JustIS app to help Judges for effective monitoring of judicial business, establishment of 105 e-Sewa Kendra for citizens and installation of Solar Power facility in 54 court complexes. Further, litigants can access court orders/judgments and other details of all the courts cases at National Judicial Data Grid.

The Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, involves timely appointment of Judges, better infrastructure for courts including computerization, promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism, enactment and implementation of New Criminal Laws 2023 and establishment of Fast Track Special Courts. However, the disposal of court cases depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers, supporting court staff, physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, quality of investigation, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, litigants.

The Patna High Court has implemented the Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAAAR-DJ), formulated by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, for disposal of all old cases pending for over 30 years, 20-30 years, and 10-20 years.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2981
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS INTEGRATED MISSION MODE PROJECT

IS (e-Courts)
✓2981

SHRI BHASHYAM RAMA KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of implementation of e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project across the country, including key initiatives undertaken under its ongoing phase;
- (b) whether the project has led to improvement in case management, digital filing and virtual hearings in courts;
- (c) the status of implementation of the project in Andhra Pradesh, including the number of courts computerised, digitised and integrated under the scheme in the State; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve digital literacy and awareness among litigants and lawyers in the State to enable wider access to e-Courts services?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The e-Courts Mission Mode Project is being implemented in a phased manner across the country with the objective of strengthening the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the judicial system. The ongoing Phase i.e. [Phase III (2023-27)] envisions a transition towards digital, paperless and more intelligent courts through large-scale digitisation of records, wider use of virtual hearings, deeper interoperability across justice institutions and adoption of emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI). The details of progress achieved under Phase – III of the project is at **Annexure – I**.

(b): The implementation of the eCourts Mission Mode Project has improved case management through the Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 and the JustIS application, enabling Judges to

digitally manage and monitor cases. It has strengthened digital filing through the e-Filing system, which facilitates online filing of cases and related applications, and e-Payments for online payment of court fees. Further, video conferencing facilities have enabled virtual and hybrid court hearings across the implemented courts. These initiatives have enhanced the efficiency, accessibility and transparency of judicial administration and service delivery.

(c): As per the information received from the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, 658 court complexes have been computerised and integrated under the scheme in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Further, 16 court complexes have been digitised in Andhra Pradesh.

(d): Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project, various steps have been undertaken to improve digital literacy and awareness among litigants and lawyers, including those in Andhra Pradesh. These include training programmes, capacity-building workshops, user manuals, video tutorials and outreach initiatives conducted through the High Courts and the State Judicial Academies.

Further, eSewa Kendras assist litigants and advocates in registration on the e-Filing portal, scanning and uploading of petitions, online payment of court fees, case status enquiries, certified copy applications, video conferencing and access to other digital court services. In addition, the eCourts services, District Court websites and eCourts mobile application provide online access to case status, cause lists, judgments, orders and other court-related information. These initiatives promote digital literacy, enhance awareness and facilitate wider access to eCourts services.

Annexure-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2981 FOR 13.08.2026 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COURTS INTEGRATED MISSION MODE PROJECT.**

The details of progress achieved under eCourts Phase – III:

S.No	Component Name	Achievement
1.	Fully functional eSewa Kendras	1806 established across court complexes
2.	Setting up the infrastructure for paperless courts	474 courts are equipped with the necessary hardware.
3.	Expansion of the Virtual Courts for hearing of court cases by creating the robust digital infrastructure.	538 courts are equipped
4.	Digitisation of the entire court record - both legacy records and fresh filing of cases	753.60 crore pages digitised
5.	Implementation of e-filing of court case	4519 courts
6.	Provision for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing	7553 establishments have VC facilities including courts, jails and hospitals.
7.	Court room live audio-visual streaming system	11 High Courts
8.	Solar facilities for ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure	1626 courts complexes are equipped
9.	Providing National Service & Tracking of electronic Processes (NSTEP) facility	6895 courts have NSTEP facility.
10.	Migration of all High Court and District Court websites to S3WAAS platform	734 courts sites migrated
11.	Additional hardware to courts and judicial officers in Phase II	18380 courts provided
12.	Integration with Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) to enable seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars like courts, police, jails, forensic labs	All High Courts have implemented ICJS
13.	Training of all stakeholders	2372 Trainings held
14.	Connectivity	174 Sites connected with Software Defined Wide Area Network (SDWAN) technology

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2983
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

JP (NHJR-11)
✓ 2983 # SHRI NAVEEN JAIN:

STRENGTHENING JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing a comprehensive action plan in coordination with the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (SNA-SPARSH) to increase the number of court buildings, additional courtrooms, residential accommodation for judicial officers, e-courts, digital infrastructure, and the availability of judicial staff and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is formulating a national policy or a long-term roadmap for judicial reforms aimed at ensuring timely justice, significantly reducing the pending cases and expanding judicial capacity by taking into account future population growth and the projected volume of litigation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State and UT Governments, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94. There are five components covered under the Scheme viz. Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial officers, Lawyers' Hall, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms.

Under SNA-SPARSH model of fund release, Mother Sanction is issued to States/UTs and they can incur expenditure on the identified projects within the limit of Mother Sanction while adhering to the CSS Scheme guidelines. Funds amounting to Rs.12,858.25 Cr (as on 30.06.2026) have been provided to the States/UTs since inception of the Scheme, as Central assistance under above CSS. In the current Financial Year 2026-27, Mother Sanctions for Rs.401.5 crore have been

issued to the States/UTs under the CSS. As on 30.06.2026, against Sanctioned Strength of 30,825 Judicial Officers, 22,639 Court Halls and 21,495 Residential Units for Judicial Officers are available.

Disposal of cases pending in various courts lies within the domain of the Judiciary. However, the Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the Judiciary which, inter-alia, involves timely appointment of Judges, better infrastructure for courts including computerization, promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism, enactment and implementation of New Criminal Laws 2023 and establishment of Fast Track Special Courts.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) which was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore, envisions a transition towards digital, paperless courts through digitisation of records, virtual hearings, interoperability across institutions and adoption of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence for expanding judicial capacity. Under the eCourts Project, various initiatives have been taken, which include e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fee/fines, Case Information System for better case management, National Service and Tracking of Electronics Process system for summons/court notices, Video Conferencing facility, digitization of court records, JustIS app to help Judges for effective monitoring of judicial business, establishment of e-Sewa Kendra for citizens and installation of Solar Power facility in court complexes. Further, litigants can access court orders/judgments and other details of all the courts cases at National Judicial Data Grid.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2985
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR FTSCS

JS(J-1)

✓2985 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the performance of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) in view of the fact that conviction rates in 2024 remained below 10 per cent in several States and average trial time exceeded 1,000 days in many States;

(b) whether Government proposes to formulate a national performance framework for FTSCs prescribing uniform benchmarks for conviction rates, pendency reduction, disposal efficiency and trial timelines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the proposed monitoring and accountability mechanism?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts, was launched on 2nd October 2019, following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 and the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court [Suo Motu Writ (Criminal) No. 1/2019]. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The time taken for disposal of cases and conviction rates depend on multiple inter-related factors beyond the institutional framework of FTSCs. These factors include quality of investigation, complexity of facts involved in the case, nature and quality of evidence and co-operation of stakeholders viz. bar, investigation agencies, legal representation, forensic support, witnesses and litigants. Therefore, conviction rates are not necessarily reflective of court performance and must be understood holistically taking into consideration all the verticals across the criminal justice

system including police, forensic labs and lawyers. Courts are mandated to deliver justice in accordance with law, which may include acquittal of the accused.

To strengthen monitoring and improve outcomes under the FTSCs Scheme, regular review meetings are held through video conferencing with the States/UTs and the High Courts. The Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice has also written to the Hon'ble Chief Ministers and Hon'ble Chief Justices of the High Courts emphasizing strict adherence to statutory timelines prescribed under the POCSO Act, 2012 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. In addition, the performance of FTSCs is a regular agenda item in the Inter-State Zonal Council meetings to improve inter-governmental coordination and expedite justice delivery.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2986
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

PENDING CASES IN FTCs AND FTSCs

JS(J-1)
✓ 2986 SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) currently functional in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (b) the number of pending cases in these courts as on date, along with the average conviction rate achieved by these courts during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the current number of vacancies at the level of judges and Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) in these courts and the concrete steps being taken by Government to fill these vacancies speedily?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): The Fast Track Courts (FTCs) are set up by the States/UTs in consultation with the respective High Courts for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases, as per their requirements and availability of resources. As per information received from the High Courts, 884 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs as on 30.06.2026. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) along with pendency are given at **Annexure- I**. No central assistance to the States is being provided for setting up of these Fast Track Courts.

Further, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts was launched in October, 2019. These courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. As per the information made available by the High Courts, as of 30.06.2026, 779 FTSCs including 399 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) courts are functional in 29 States/UTs across the country. The

State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO courts along with pendency, are given at **Annexure -II.**

The State/UT-wise conviction rate of FTSCs for the last three calendar years are given at **Annexure-III.**

(c): As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State/UT Government in consultation with the respective High Court frames the rules regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers. Accordingly, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts including the FTCs and FTSCs, is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments.

State/UT-wise functional Fast Track Courts (FTCs) as on 30.06.2026

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Functional FTC	Number of Cases pending
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	6817
2	Andaman & Nicobar island	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	17	17145
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chandigarh	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	5491
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0	0
9	Delhi	26	7385
10	Goa	4	1446
11	Gujarat	54	4896
12	Haryana	6	869
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	203
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1319
15	Jharkhand	40	8489
16	Karnataka	0	0
17	Kerala	0	0
18	Ladakh	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0	0
21	Maharashtra	117	135340
22	Manipur	6	131
23	Meghalaya	0	0
24	Mizoram	2	276
25	Nagaland	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0
27	Puducherry	1	4793
28	Punjab	7	161
29	Rajasthan	0	0
30	Sikkim	2	18
31	Tamil Nadu	73	89703
32	Telangana	0	0
33	Tripura	2	911
34	Uttar Pradesh	373	1374820
35	Uttarakhand	7	1217
36	West Bengal	88	93245
	TOTAL	884	1754675

State/UT-wise functional FTSCs including e-POCSO courts along with pendency as on 30.06.2026

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Functional FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts	Pendency
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	5453
2	Assam	17	6837
3	Bihar	54	24425
4	Chandigarh	1	183
5	Chhattisgarh	15	1796
6	Delhi	16	3179
7	Goa	1	158
8	Gujarat	35	4923
9	Haryana	18	4803
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	469
11	Jammu & Kashmir	4	530
12	Karnataka	30	5571
13	Kerala	55	6612
14	Madhya Pradesh	67	10943
15	Maharashtra	38	40726
16	Manipur	2	20
17	Meghalaya	5	1167
18	Mizoram	3	94
19	Nagaland	1	44
20	Odisha	44	8967
21	Puducherry	1	240
22	Punjab	12	1413
23	Rajasthan	45	3550
24	Tamil Nadu	20	9065
25	Telangana	36	8806
26	Tripura	3	241
27	Uttarakhand	7	1213
28	Uttar Pradesh	218	98359
29	West Bengal	9	6310
	TOTAL	779	256097

State/UT-wise Conviction Rate in Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Average Conviction rate (%)		
		Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	3.97	5.19	5.55
2	Assam	16.70	35.00	21.00
3	Bihar	17.29	14.51	9.65
4	Chandigarh	67	16.92	18.50
5	Chhattisgarh	16.88	23.69	14.01
6	Delhi	24.94	8.59	10.92
7	Goa	39	9.69	18.75
8	Gujarat	7.42	9.53	9.34
9	Haryana	15.52	40.50	17.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	25.04	8.24	15.50
11	Jammu & Kashmir	6	4.50	4.44
12	Jharkhand*	21.2	14.78	20.80
13	Karnataka	12.54	8.10	7.04
14	Kerala	9.9	13.00	14.51
15	Madhya Pradesh	27.45	14.50	23.32
16	Maharashtra	10.55	6.07	22.22
17	Manipur	21.86	7.00	64.70
18	Meghalaya	58.49	45.00	52.78
19	Mizoram	14.14	33.50	58.50
20	Nagaland	24	25.00	80.00
21	Odisha	13.32	10.63	8.43
22	Puducherry	17	17.94	19.00
23	Punjab	12.46	47.19	23.00
24	Rajasthan	22.6	18.29	16.58
25	Tamil Nadu	28.5	25.82	31.35
26	Telangana	7.12	7.00	20.21
27	Tripura	6.87	5.30	21.00
28	Uttarakhand	22.42	22.50	20.20
29	Uttar Pradesh	26.49	25.11	25.22
30	West Bengal	1	2.00	11.00

* The State of Jharkhand has decided to exit the FTSC Scheme vide letter dated 07.07.2025.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2987
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

VACANCIES IN JUDICIARY

JS(NHJR-1)

✓ 2987 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sanctioned posts and its current strength in Judicial service, institution-wise, year-wise and social category-wise during the last five years; and

(b) the number of judges in High Courts and the Supreme Court, year-wise and social category-wise during those years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b): As per data available on the Nyaya Vikas Portal, the numbers of sanctioned posts and working strength of Judges and Judicial Officers in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts, during the last five years, year-wise, are as under:

Sr. No.	Year	SUPREME COURT		HIGH COURTS		DISTRICT AND SUBORDINATE COURTS	
		Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
1	2021	34	33	1,098	687	24,492	19,328
2	2022	34	28	1,108	769	25,077	19,319
3	2023	34	33	1,114	784	25,345	20,018
4	2024	34	33	1,122	751	25,753	20,694
5	2025	34	33	1,122	818	25,900	21,093
6	2026 (as on 04.08.2026)	38	35	1,122	780	30,868	23,558

Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, category-wise data pertaining to representation of any caste or class of persons among the Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts are not centrally available. Further, appointment of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and High Courts concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, the Government is committed to social diversity in judiciary. The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women to ensure social diversity in the appointment of Judges in High Courts.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2988
ANSWERED ON - 13/08/2026

STRENGTHENING OF TRIBUNALS

Admn III
(DOLA)

2988 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to ensure the timely appointment and stable tenure of Chairpersons, Presiding Officers and members of various tribunals;
- (b) whether any proposal is under consideration to establish a National Tribunals Commission, in order to strengthen the institutional oversight of tribunals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the measures being taken to meet the infrastructural and administrative requirements of tribunals functioning across the country; and
- (e) the roadmap for strengthening the functional and administrative autonomy of tribunals in the future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c): Consequent upon the enactment of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, sixteen Tribunals have been placed under First Schedule of the said Act which are under the purview of various Ministries/Departments. Timely appointment and tenure of Chairpersons, Presiding Officers and members of tribunals have been administered by the respective administrative Ministry/Department as per the statutory provision under the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereon.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 19.11.2025 in the matter of Madras Bar Association vs. UOI, W.P.(C) No.1018 of 2021, inter-alia, vide para-142 of the said judgement, has struck down certain provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and given its findings regarding the working of the Tribunals under the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021 and Rules framed thereon.

In order to comply inter alia with the directions at para-153 of the above said judgement and to establish a 'National Tribunals Commission', both the Houses of Parliament have in this session passed the 'Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2026'.

(d) & (e): The Government is making all efforts to fill the vacancies in the various Tribunals besides augmenting their infrastructural requirements and human resources. Various steps including legislative measures and framing of standard operating procedures have been and are undertaken for efficient functioning of the Tribunals and for timely disposal of cases. This includes strengthening digital infrastructure, adoption of e-Office, Court Room hearing by way of Video Conferencing, digitization of records, online case management systems, and continuous monitoring of administrative efficiency for early disposal of cases. The Tribunals being statutory/quasi-judicial body established under the provisions of Central Acts under the administrative control of various Ministries/Departments, they are entrusted to hear and dispose of appeals independently as per provisions of their respective Acts and Rules framed thereunder.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2989
ANSWERED ON - 13/08/2026

IMPACT OF MEDIATION

ADR Cell
(DoLA)
✓2989

SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated measures to promote institutional mediation for commercial, civil and community disputes;
- (b) if so, the details of mediation centres established, awareness initiatives undertaken and capacity-building programmes conducted; and
- (c) whether any framework has been evolved to periodically assess the impact of mediation on reducing court pendency and improving access to affordable justice?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): The Government is promoting alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms including mediation, as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes.

- (i) Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 provides for mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement (PIMS) in commercial disputes of specified value, before instituting a suit except in cases in which urgent relief is contemplated by the party. The parties have to therefore first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before approaching the Court. This is aimed at providing an opportunity to the parties to resolve the commercial disputes through mediation and prevent disputes which are thus amicably settled being taken to courts for adjudication. Authorities established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 are required to conduct PIMS under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015.

- (ii) The Mediation Act, 2023, also lays down the statutory framework for mediation to be adopted by parties to a dispute, especially institutional mediation, wherein various stakeholders have also been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country. Section 31 of the Act provides for the establishment of Mediation Council of India as a national level body *inter-alia* for promoting mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution and for recognising mediation service providers in the country. Also, section 43 of the Act provides for resolution of any dispute which is likely to affect peace, harmony and tranquillity amongst the residents or families of any area or locality through community mediation.

The Government is continuously engaging with various stakeholders including High Courts and NALSA for raising awareness related to mediation and capacity building amongst the stakeholders. In March 2025 a national level Mediation Conference was organised by Ld. Attorney General for India in association with Department of Legal Affairs and India International Arbitration Centre at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Further, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been taking various steps to promote mediation across the country. These include strengthening ADR Centres and Mediation Centres functioning under the Legal Services Authorities, empanelling and training mediators, promoting pre-litigation and community-based dispute resolution, and implementing the Community Mediation initiative through the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).

NALSA provides funds out of grants in aid received from Govt of India to Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) constituted by Supreme Court of India. MCPC provides training to lawyers to become trained mediators.

Also, NALSA in collaboration with International Academy of Mediators successfully organized a 15 hours Advanced Commercial Mediation Training Program at the Supreme Court of India from 14th October-16th October, 2024 (Batch 1) and from 3rd March to 5th March, 2025 (Batch 2). The three-day event brought together experienced legal professionals, mediators, and judges to enhance mediation skills, particularly in handling complex commercial disputes.

As on March, 2026, there are 452 ADR Centres and 1,394 Mediation Centres functioning across the country. A total of 4,681 Judicial Officers, 10,124 Lawyers, and 753 other Mediators have been trained and deployed as Mediators.

- (c): No framework has been evolved to access the impact the mediation on reducing court pendency.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2990
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

JS (APPHS.)

APPOINTMENT OF HIGH COURT JUDGES

2990 SHRI HARIS BEERAN:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of recommendations for appointment of High Court judges made by the Supreme Court Collegium to Government since 1st January, 2026, High Court-wise;
- (b) how many of these have been accepted and notified and how many remain pending, with the specific reasons for each pendency;
- (c) whether the recommendation concerning the Kerala High Court made is among those pending; and
- (d) if so, the specific reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d): Appointment of Judges to High Courts is made under Articles 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. As per the MoP, the High Courts are required to make recommendations at least 06 months before the occurrence of a vacancy. However, this time limit is rarely observed. For appointments to the High Courts, the views of concerned State Government

are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Government and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

From January, 2026 till 10.08.2026, 52 Judges have been appointed in various High Court and 1 Judge has been appointed in the Kerala High Court.
