

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

RAJYASABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 16th DECEMBER, 2021**

PENDENCY IN LOWER COURTS

2201. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of pending, civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country, State-wise as on date;**
- (b) the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st December, 2021 and 1st January, 2020, State-wise;**
- (c) the details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last two years; and**
- (d) the details of efforts taken by Government for early disposal of cases in the country during the last two years?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): The details of pendency of civil and criminal cases as on date, in respect of lower judiciary, State-wise, as available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at *Annexure I*.

(b): The details of pendency of civil and criminal cases in respect of lower judiciary as on 1.12.2021 and 01.01.2020, State-wise, as available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at *Annexure II*.

(c): The details of increase/decrease in pendency of civil and criminal cases in respect of lower judiciary, State-wise during the last two years (as on 1st January 2020 and 13th December 2021), as available at National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at ***Annexure III***.

(d): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary.

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

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

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

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 as on 01.07.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.11.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.56 crore cases and 15.72 crore order/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all

computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-SewaKendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crores has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crores has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

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

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

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 29.11.2021, 44 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 688 new Judges were appointed and 583 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been

increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1098 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
13.12.2021	24,489	19,356

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

(iv) **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers in the past drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

(v) **Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(vi) **Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous

crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.10.2021, 914 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20 and Rs. 160.00 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 for the scheme. 681 FTSCs are presently functional including 381 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 64217 cases as on 31.10.2021. The continuation of the Scheme of FTSC has been approved for another two years (2021-23) at a total outlay of Rs. 1572.86 crore, including Rs. 971.70 crore as Central share.

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

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2021
REGARDING PENDENCY IN LOWER COURTS.

S. No.	Name of State /UT*	Cases Pending as on 13.12.2021		
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Both
1	Andhra Pradesh	413386	358955	772341
2	Assam	86566	327950	414516
3	Bihar	473790	2897386	3371176
4	Chandigarh	22723	45341	68064
5	Chhattisgarh	68945	301892	370837
6	Delhi	241300	850685	1091985
7	Diu and Daman	1389	1466	2855
8	DNH at Silvassa	1740	1920	3660
9	Goa	25750	35535	61285
10	Gujarat	459288	1499829	1959117
11	Haryana	429063	839183	1268246
12	Himachal Pradesh	153640	294670	448310
13	Jammu and Kashmir	95828	147198	243026
14	Jharkhand	89167	405426	494593
15	Karnataka	876561	1119919	1996480
16	Kerala	517243	1436017	1953260
17	Ladakh	398	426	824
18	Madhya Pradesh	377780	1463105	1840885
19	Maharashtra	1477536	3366054	4843590
20	Manipur	8430	4430	12860
21	Meghalaya	4210	9881	14091
22	Mizoram	2202	3742	5944

23	Nagaland	489	2109	2598
24	Odisha	303368	1212366	1515734
25	Puducherry	15381	19720	35101
26	Punjab	391687	525185	916872
27	Rajasthan	515566	1496161	2011727
28	Sikkim	674	1193	1867
29	Tamil Nadu	759650	606749	1366399
30	Telangana	328829	475421	804250
31	Tripura	9151	30134	39285
32	Uttar Pradesh	1908209	7951414	9859623
33	Uttarakhand	44417	256002	300419
34	West Bengal	604073	1976534	2580607
	TOTAL	10708429	29963998	40672427

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

ANNEXURE II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2021 REGARDING
PENDENCY IN LOWER COURTS.

S. No.	Name of State /UT*	Cases Pending as on 01.12.2021			Cases Pending as on 01.1.2020		
		Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Both	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Both
1	Andhra Pradesh	413693	363691	777384	241528	188628	430156
2	Assam	86293	326104	412397	47202	180308	227510
3	Bihar	472162	2888823	3360985	369390	2276030	2645420
4	Chandigarh	23115	45849	68964	13228	21913	35141
5	Chhattisgarh	69484	309107	378591	38086	161756	199842
6	Delhi	238327	842159	1080486	133077	530201	663278
7	Diu and Daman	1373	1472	2845	799	800	1599
8	DNH at Silvassa	1721	1934	3655	1040	1058	2098
9	Goa	25621	35469	61090	17064	18246	35310
10	Gujarat	464514	1576737	2041251	300916	831407	1132323
11	Haryana	427431	833373	1260804	228601	407926	636527
12	Himachal Pradesh	154820	290206	445026	91576	107356	198932
13	Jammu and Kashmir	95828	147198	243026	60728	89858	150586
14	Jharkhand	88694	402114	490808	56504	258011	314515
15	Karnataka	867946	1021854	1889800	519073	531896	1050969
16	Kerala	514423	1448236	1962659	263079	814605	1077684
17	Ladakh	398	426	824	190	198	388
18	Madhya Pradesh	380836	1460728	1841564	221709	898732	1120441
19	Maharashtra	1475674	3395067	4870741	1015073	2146953	3162026
20	Manipur	8342	4309	12651	4777	2264	7041

21	Meghalaya	4135	9663	13798	2749	6738	9487
22	Mizoram	2191	3674	5865	1030	1713	2743
23	Nagaland	471	2111	2582	178	1308	1486
24	Odisha	303026	1209105	1512131	225357	919106	1144463
25	Puducherry	15341	19425	34766	7731	13228	20959
26	Punjab	395250	526833	922083	194004	239226	433230
27	Rajasthan	523810	1516368	2040178	332173	1010796	1342969
28	Sikkim	636	1180	1816	133	302	435
29	Tamil Nadu	757294	599460	1356754	438477	379489	817966
30	Telangana	327400	476063	803463	196061	256077	452138
31	Tripura	9065	29582	38647	4410	9356	13766
32	Uttar Pradesh	1904821	7896231	9801052	1374896	5081977	6456873
33	Uttarakhand	44380	256319	300699	22158	121855	144013
34	West Bengal	600973	1962727	2563700	445045	1613543	2058588
	TOTAL	10699488	29903597	40603085	6868042	19122860	25990902

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

ANNEXURE III**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2201 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2021 REGARDING
PENDENCY IN LOWER COURTS.**

S. No.	Name of State /UTs	Civil Cases		Increase	Criminal Cases		Increase
		As on 01.01.2020	As on 13.12.2021		As on 01.01.2020	As on 13.12.2021	
1	Andhra Pradesh	241528	413386	171858	188628	358955	170327
2	Assam	47202	86566	39364	180308	327950	147642
3	Bihar	369390	473790	104400	2276030	2897386	621356
4	Chandigarh	13228	22723	9495	21913	45341	23428
5	Chhattisgarh	38086	68945	30859	161756	301892	140136
6	Delhi	133077	241300	108223	530201	850685	320484
7	Diu and Daman	799	1389	590	800	1466	666
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli at Silvassa	1040	1740	700	1058	1920	862
9	Goa	17064	25750	8686	18246	35535	17289
10	Gujarat	300916	459288	158372	831407	1499829	668422
11	Haryana	228601	429063	200462	407926	839183	431257
12	Himachal Pradesh	91576	153640	62064	107356	294670	187314
13	Jammu and Kashmir	60728	95828	35100	89858	147198	57340
14	Jharkhand	56504	89167	32663	258011	405426	147415
15	Karnataka	519073	876561	357488	531896	1119919	588023
16	Kerala	263079	517243	254164	814605	1436017	621412
17	Ladakh	190	398	208	198	426	228
18	Madhya Pradesh	221709	377780	156071	898732	1463105	564373
19	Maharashtra	1015073	1477536	462463	2146953	3366054	1219101
20	Manipur	4777	8430	3653	2264	4430	2166
21	Meghalaya	2749	4210	1461	6738	9881	3143
22	Mizoram	1030	2202	1172	1713	3742	2029
23	Nagaland	178	489	311	1308	2109	801
24	Odisha	225357	303368	78011	919106	1212366	293260
25	Puducherry	7731	15381	7650	13228	19720	6492
26	Punjab	194004	391687	197683	239226	525185	285959
27	Rajasthan	332173	515566	183393	1010796	1496161	485365
28	Sikkim	133	674	541	302	1193	891
29	Tamil Nadu	438477	759650	321173	379489	606749	227260
30	Telangana	196061	328829	132768	256077	475421	219344
31	Tripura	4410	9151	4741	9356	30134	20778
32	Uttar Pradesh	1374896	1908209	533313	5081977	7951414	2869437
33	Uttarakhand	22158	44417	22259	121855	256002	134147
34	West Bengal	445045	604073	159028	1613543	1976534	362991
	Total	6868042	10708429	3840387	19122860	29963998	10841138

