

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN JUDICIARY**

**1070. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:**

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

(a) whether Government has drawn any plan to make the judicial system more transparent and more efficient for litigants and lawyers; and

(b) if so, the details of the technological and other measures that are being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a):** The 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerization, an 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.

**(b):** Towards achieving the goal of “Open Government” and bringing about change for optimal use of human resources and make justice delivery more transparent, efficient and accountable, the Government (Department of Justice) in collaboration with eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has been harnessing the potentiality of the Information and Communication Technology(ICT) to the fullest through its eCourts Mission Mode Project-Phase I and Phase II under which following measures have been taken:-

- i.** A total of 18,735 District and Subordinate courts have been digitised under the eCourts Project Phase II so far.

- ii. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2973 courts sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e-Court services is based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iv. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.
- v. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 21.74 crore cases and more than 19.80 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized (as on 01.12.2022). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.
- vi. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.50 Cr. downloads till 31stOctober 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 31stNovember 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- vii. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.30 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 31 lakhs cases online fine of more than Rs. 337crore has been realised till 01.12.2022.
- viii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 2,97,435 hearings (till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (75,80,347 cases and Subordinate Courts (1,65,20,791 cases) have conducted 2.41 crore virtual hearings till 31.10.2022. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.10.2022.
- xi. Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up eSewa Kendras. As on 28.02.2022, 619 eSewa Kendra's have been made functional in District Courts under 25 High Courts.

- xii.** National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/UTs.
- xiii.** A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- xiv.** To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 38 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 24 High Courts.
- xv.** Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 12 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes have covered nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.

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