

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1072  
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022**

**Virtual Functioning of Courts**

**1072. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:**

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

- (a) the total amount of money spent on building infrastructure for Online/Virtual functioning of various Higher, Lower and Quasi-judicial courts during the last 3 years; and
- (b) how much of the report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice has been implemented by Government?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

**(a):** 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 & Subordinate courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the High Courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 2,97,435 hearings till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period. In the Phase-II of the eCourts Project, out of total outlay of Rs. 1670 crore, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore as on 31.03.2022 to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. Over the last three years the government has provided the courts with Video Conferencing infrastructure such as video conferencing equipment, VC Cabins, VC Licenses and Document Visualizers, etc. Total funds released in the last three years are Rs. 42.79 crores. Year-wise release of funds is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Funds Released for VC Infrastructure</b>
2019-20	Rs. 0.80 crores
2020-21	Rs. 41.48 crores
2021-22	Rs. 0.31 crores

**(b):** On the 103<sup>rd</sup> interim report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice regarding the functioning of Virtual Courts/Court proceedings through Video Conferencing, the Department of Justice had furnished to the Rajya Sabha secretariat on 16/12/2020, an Action Taken Report on the various observations and recommendations as contained in the said report and the same is under consideration before the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

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