

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022**

**PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES**

**1867. 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 15th December, 2022;
- (b) the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st January, 2021 and 31st December, 2021, State-wise;
- (c) the details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last one year; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government for early disposal of cases along with the outcome thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a):** As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending, civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country, State-wise as on 15th December, 2022 is at *Annexure-I*.
- (b):** As per information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the details of pending civil and criminal cases at the level of lower judiciary in the country as on 1st January, 2021 and 31st December, 2021, State-wise is at *Annexure-II*.
- (c):** The details of increase/decrease in pendency of criminal and civil cases, State-wise during the last one year i.e. 2021-2022 is at *Annexure-III*.

**(d):** The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in this regard. However, 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.

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.

The major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives for aiding early disposal and their outcomes are as follows:

**(i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,159 as on 30.11.2022, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022, under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crores, out of which the central share will be Rs. 5,307 crores. Besides, the construction of court halls and residential units, it would also cover the construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes, and digital computer rooms. There are 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential units made available under the scheme so far. 2673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction as part of ongoing projects.

**(ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** The Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout

the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% 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 01.12.2022, litigants can access the case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 crore orders/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 the eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centers (JSC) in all computerized courts, the eCourts Mobile App, email service, and SMS push, and pull services. A video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handling the COVID- 19 challenges better and making the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 619 e-SewaKendras have been set up 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 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, and Rajasthan to try traffic offences. As on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 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 began, the district courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the high courts heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) via video conferencing till 31.10.2022. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new judges were appointed and 621 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 1108 currently. sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
16.12.2022	25,017	19,192

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 a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well. 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 the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of states drawing their attention to the cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department of Justice 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 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) 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 31.10.2022, 838 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, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme Rs. 53.55 crore has been released during current FY upto October, 2022. 731 FTSC are functional 412 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,24,000 cases as on 31.10.2022.

**(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.

**(viii)** Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. In order to reduce the pendency of cases in courts and also to settle the disputes at pre-litigation stage, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, Lok Adalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the case disposed off in Lok Adalats during the last two years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
Total	3,82,21,509	1,64,92,538	5,47,14,047

(ix) The government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

Category	Total Advice Enabled	%
SC	8,62,464	31.51%
ST	4,90,729	17.93%
OBC	7,94,986	29.04%
Women	9,19,389	33.59%
General	5,88,932	21.52%
As of 30th Nov 2022,		

(x) Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform.

Pro Bono Panel of advocates have been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING  
'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

**Details of Cases Pending in Lower Judiciary as on 15.12.2022.**

S No.	State/UTs	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	1857563	9092346	10949909
2	Maharashtra	1558574	3387479	4946053
3	Bihar	507445	2933205	3440650
4	West Bengal	612878	2137121	2749999
5	Rajasthan	529146	1586987	2116133
6	Madhya Pradesh	392949	1577717	1970666
7	Karnataka	907106	978859	1885965
8	Kerala	510963	1357575	1868538
9	Gujarat	425707	1308024	1733731
10	Orissa	299125	1246164	1545289
11	Haryana	452460	986599	1439059
12	Tamil Nadu	749318	674997	1424315
13	Delhi	247923	1045479	1293402
14	Telangana	419433	632618	1052051
15	Punjab	399542	518608	918150
16	Andhra Pradesh	411886	404676	816562
17	Jharkhand	89983	432894	522877
18	Assam	93253	395325	488578
19	Himachal Pradesh	153497	319841	473338
20	Chhattisgarh	75386	329777	405163
21	Uttarakhand	44684	284949	329633
22	Jammu and Kashmir	98260	198896	297156
23	Chandigarh	22977	55211	78188
24	Goa	25686	30185	55871
25	Tripura	11241	28316	39557
26	Puducherry	11892	18041	29933
27	Meghalaya	4539	11749	16288
28	Manipur	7994	4261	12255
29	Andaman and Nicobar	3143	8722	11865
30	Odisha	2231	9100	11331
31	Mizoram	2314	2842	5156
32	DNH at Silvassa	1858	1921	3779
33	Nagaland	573	2394	2967
34	Diu and Daman	1430	1468	2898
35	Sikkim	656	1195	1851
36	Ladakh	642	492	1134
<b>Total</b>		<b>10934257</b>	<b>32006033</b>	<b>42940290</b>

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

**Details of Cases Pending in Lower Judiciary as on 01.01.2021 and 31.12.2021.**

S.No	States/UTs	Pendency as on 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2021			Pendency as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021		
		Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	1805336	6975768	<b>8781104</b>	1850739	8115867	<b>9966606</b>
2	Andhra Pradesh	351110	298047	<b>649157</b>	414077	371302	<b>785379</b>
3	Telangana	281547	410099	<b>691646</b>	322417	467943	<b>790360</b>
4	Maharashtra	1363965	3140608	<b>4504573</b>	1478744	3322151	<b>4800895</b>
5	Goa	24332	34635	<b>58967</b>	25820	33594	<b>59414</b>
6	Diu and Daman & Silvassa	2955	3326	<b>6281</b>	3140	3383	<b>6523</b>
7	West Bengal	546955	1623833	<b>2170788</b>	600575	1783445	<b>2384020</b>
8	Andaman & Nicobar	4207	5632	<b>9839</b>	4476	4845	<b>9321</b>
9	Chhattisgarh	62912	268937	<b>331849</b>	72062	309922	<b>381984</b>
10	Delhi	216127	802515	<b>1018642</b>	249500	981873	<b>1231373</b>
11	Gujarat	460382	1457610	<b>1917992</b>	455312	1496950	<b>1952262</b>
12	Assam	80793	279960	<b>360753</b>	87179	327845	<b>415024</b>
13	Nagaland	1581	2625	<b>4206</b>	1780	2789	<b>4569</b>
14	Meghalaya	3502	12328	<b>15830</b>	3705	12305	<b>16010</b>
15	Manipur	4309	2648	<b>6957</b>	5257	2926	<b>8183</b>
16	Tripura	10776	33878	<b>44654</b>	11271	31825	<b>43096</b>
17	Mizoram	2586	3752	<b>6338</b>	2648	3656	<b>6304</b>
18	Arunachal Pradesh	2228	10423	<b>12651</b>	2450	11868	<b>14318</b>
19	Himachal Pradesh	146485	274406	<b>420891</b>	157703	307189	<b>464892</b>
20	Jammu & Kashmir	69083	129688	<b>198771</b>	75211	141034	<b>216245</b>
21	Jharkhand	77312	349818	<b>427130</b>	88696	402209	<b>490905</b>
22	Karnataka	820004	889216	<b>1709220</b>	848853	931949	<b>1780802</b>
23	Kerala	512392	1576897	<b>2089289</b>	543434	1545713	<b>2089147</b>
24	U.T of Lakshadweep	144	309	<b>453</b>	169	301	<b>470</b>
25	Madhya Pradesh	337383	1389910	<b>1727293</b>	359364	1561249	<b>1920613</b>
26	Tamil Nadu	717710	546048	<b>1263758</b>	757473	574471	<b>1331944</b>



27	Puducherry	15818	17652	<b>33470</b>	14298	18700	<b>32998</b>
28	Orissa	342356	1249894	<b>1592250</b>	362945	1426732	<b>1789677</b>
29	Bihar	417183	2599560	<b>3016743</b>	464456	2812240	<b>3276696</b>
30	Punjab	349193	494598	<b>843791</b>	393846	551763	<b>945609</b>
31	Haryana	384167	717163	<b>1101330</b>	429831	884050	<b>1313881</b>
32	Chandigarh	21009	49624	<b>70633</b>	22976	49408	<b>72384</b>
33	Rajasthan	483330	1464358	<b>1947688</b>	518923	1643851	<b>2162774</b>
34	Sikkim	466	989	<b>1455</b>	499	1117	<b>1616</b>
35	Uttarakhand	35548	213802	<b>249350</b>	36474	250730	<b>287204</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9955186</b>	<b>27330556</b>	<b>37285742</b>	<b>10666303</b>	<b>30387195</b>	<b>41053498</b>

Source:-Supreme Court of India.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1867 FOR ANSWER ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES'**

**State-Wise Details of Increase/Decrease in Pendency of Criminal and Civil Cases during 2021-2022 in Lower Judiciary**

S.No	States/UTs	Pendency as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021*	Pendency as on 30th September, 2022*	Increase/Decrease**	Pendency as on 31st December, 2021*	Pendency as on 30th September, 2022*	Increase/Decrease**
		<b>Civil Cases</b>				<b>Criminal Cases</b>	
1	Uttar Pradesh	1850739	1670274	-180465	8115867	8970799	854932
2	Andhra Pradesh	414077	415444	1367	371302	412346	41044
3	Telangana	322417	327638	5221	467943	495020	27077
4	Maharashtra	1478744	1542796	64052	3322151	3376458	54307
5	Goa	25820	25603	-217	33594	30479	-3115
6	Diu and Daman	3140	1411	-1729	3383	1446	-1937
7	Silvassa		1892	1892		1892	1892
8	West Bengal	600575	606777	6202	1783445	1874642	91197
9	Andaman & Nicobar	4476	4418	-58	4845	4745	-100
10	Chhattisgarh	72062	77563	5501	309922	325703	15781
11	Delhi	249500	251891	2391	981873	1188258	206385
12	Gujarat	455312	436650	-18662	1496950	1371977	-124973
13	Assam	87179	92704	5525	327845	385652	57807
14	Nagaland	1780	1573	-207	2789	3032	243
15	Meghalaya	3705	3609	-96	12305	11967	-338
16	Manipur	5257	4889	-368	2926	2765	-161
17	Tripura	11271	11317	46	31825	27669	-4156
18	Mizoram	2648	2792	144	3656	3051	-605
19	Arunachal Pradesh	2450	2743	293	11868	13286	1418
20	Himachal Pradesh	157703	160134	2431	307189	344778	37589

\* As per data obtained from Supreme Court of India

\*\* In cases of decrease of pendency of cases it is depicted by (-) prefix

21	Jammu & Kashmir	75211	77329	2118	141034	180899	39865
22	Jharkhand	88696	87650	-1046	402209	412037	9828
23	Karnataka	848853	891724	42871	931949	986321	54372
24	Kerala	543434	542413	-1021	1545713	1449930	-95783
25	U.T of Lakshadweep	169	165	-4	301	374	73
26	Madhya Pradesh	359364	364164	4800	1561249	1593011	31762
27	Tamil Nadu	757473	761467	3994	574471	622398	47927
28	Puducherry	14298	13591	-707	18700	18625	-75
29	Orissa	362945	360986	-1959	1426732	1485534	58802
30	Bihar	464456	489861	25405	2812240	2944269	132029
31	Punjab	393846	405565	11719	551763	547212	-4551
32	Haryana	429831	451678	21847	884050	994097	110047
33	Chandigarh	22976	23353	377	49408	65452	16044
34	Rajasthan	518923	535685	16762	1643851	1712516	68665
35	Sikkim	499	533	34	1117	1112	-5
36	Uttarakhand	36474	37887	1413	250730	280856	30126
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10666303</b>	<b>10686169</b>	<b>19866</b>	<b>30387195</b>	<b>32140608</b>	<b>1753413</b>

\* As per data obtained from Supreme Court of India

\*\* In cases of decrease of pendency of cases it is depicted by (-) prefix