

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 267  
ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**PENDENCY OF CASES**

**267 # SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of criminal and civil cases are pending in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the complete details of such cases pending for completion of trials for more than ten years; and
- (c) whether Government has issued any advisory to courts for minimum adjournments and for speedy trials of cases and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b):** As per information received from the Supreme Court of India, the number of matters pending for more than 10 years is 11049. The following data on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), which reflects the number of civil and criminal cases pending in high courts, district & subordinate courts for more than 10 years is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil	Criminal
1	High Courts* (as on 02.12.2022)	877669	374636
2	District & Subordinate Courts* (as on 02.12.2022)	691827	2726167

\*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**(c):** The time taken for disposal of a case depends on several factors, such as category of case (civil or criminal), the complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, cooperation of various stakeholders, viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, and litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, and applicable rules of procedure. Several factors may lead to delay in disposal of

cases which, *inter-alia*, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments, the number of revisions / appeals and lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. As such, it is not practicable to assess the average delay in the disposal of cases due to adjournments alone.

In order to expedite the trial of court cases a number of legislative changes have been made in procedural laws, which include provisions for limiting adjournments of court proceedings in criminal and civil matters as contained in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Order XVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. The Government has adopted a coordinated approach to assist the judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerisation, increase in the strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, and emphasis on human resource development.

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