

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*80  
ANSWERED ON 09/02/2023**

**STATUS OF PENDENCY OF CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUPREME COURT**

**80. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:**

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

- (a) the details of pendency of cases in the Supreme Court, as on 1st February, 2023;
- (b) the details of pendency of cases in the High Court of States across the country, as on 1st February, 2023; and
- (c) the details of the steps/plan/measures that are being taken by Government to reduce/minimize the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court as well as High Courts of States across the country?

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

**(a) to (c):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 80 FOR REPLY ON 09.02.2023 REGARDING 'STATUS OF PENDENCY OF CASES IN HIGH COURTS AND SUPREME COURT' ASKED BY SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR '.**

(a): As per the information provided by the Supreme Court of India on its official website, there are 69,511 cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023.

(b): There are 59,87,477 cases pending in the High Courts across the country as per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid(NJDG) on 1st February, 2023. The detailed statement on High Court-wise pendency of cases as on 1st February, 2023 is placed at ANNEXURE.

(c): The disposal of pending cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter.

However, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide suitable environment for expeditious disposal of cases by the judiciary. Central Government started the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms 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 under various initiatives of the Department of Justice to assist in reducing/minimizing the pendency of cases in the courts and their outcomes are as follows:

- i. **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9490.45 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 21,245 as on 30.01.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,726 as on 30.01.2023, under this scheme. In addition, 2,780 court halls and 1652 residential units are under construction (as per NyayaVikas 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.
  
- 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 99.4% 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 02.02.2023, litigants can access the case status of over 22.09crore cases and 20.43crore 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

eCourtsMobile 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 02.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.40 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 347.86 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 1,82,20,040 cases while the high courts heard 77,01,697 cases (total 2.59crore) via video conferencing till 30.12.2022. The Supreme Court had 3,79,954 hearings since the lockdown period upto 24.12.2022.

- iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 06.02.2023, 52 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 870 new judges were appointed and 626 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:

<b>As on</b>	<b>Sanctioned Strength</b>	<b>Working Strength</b>
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
06.02.2023	25,135	19,376

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. **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 31.12.2022, 848 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. 186.93 crore has been released during current FY upto December, 2022. 768 FTSC are functional including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,37,000 cases as on 31.12.2022.

- vi. 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.
- vii. **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.
- viii. LokAdalat 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 LokAdalat 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, LokAdalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions at such intervals as it deems fit. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. However, as per Section 19 of the LSA Act, 1987, LokAdalats are organized by Legal Services Institutions as per requirement. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the case disposed off in LokAdalats 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	10,00,641	31.62 %
ST	5,62,169	17.77 %
OBC	9,26,006	29.26 %
Women	10,59,373	33.48 %
General	6,75,574	21.35 %
As on 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2023	<b>31,64,390</b>	

- 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 NyayaBandhu (Android &iOS and Apps). NyayaBandhu 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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**Annexure-I****Pendency of Cases in various High Courts as on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023**

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>High Court</b>	<b>Both</b>
1	Allahabad High Court	1030185
2	High Court Of Rajasthan	640267
3	Bombay High Court	620586
4	Madras High Court	550926
5	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	445056
6	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	431727
7	High Court of Karnataka	304556
8	High Court for State of Telangana	253358
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	241465
10	Patna High Court	213158
11	Calcutta High Court	206720
12	High Court of Kerala	195349
13	High Court of Gujarat	161036
14	Orissa High Court	160451
15	High Court of Delhi	106078
16	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	91683
17	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	91189
18	High Court of Jharkhand	86881
19	Gauhati High Court	58501
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	45554
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	45052
22	High Court of Manipur	4884
23	High Court of Tripura	1469
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1175
25	High Court of Sikkim	171
<b>Total</b>		<b>5987477</b>

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)