

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.116  
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023**

**CASES PENDING FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS**

**116 # SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:**

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in the courts of the country for more than 25 years;
- (b) whether any study has been undertaken to find out the cost incurred in long pending cases so that the extent of economic pressure which a common man has to undergo to get justice, can be ascertained; and
- (c) the reasons for extremely long pendency of the cases?

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

**(a):** The number of cases pending for more than 25 years, in Supreme Court of India as per the data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 27.01.2023 is 81. As per the data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 30.01.2023 the number of cases pending for more than 25 years in the High Courts and in the District & Subordinate courts are, 1,24,810 and 2,76,208 respectively.

**(b):** No such study has been undertaken to find out the cost incurred in long pending cases so that the extent of economic pressure which a common man has to undergo to get justice could be ascertained.

(c): The pendency of cases is a multi-faceted problem. With an increase in the population of the country and enhanced awareness among the public about their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing, year after year. There are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. Further, the pandemic which set around 2020 also contributed significantly in increasing the pendency in the last three year. It may be noted that the Criminal Justice System functions on the assistance of various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. The delay in providing mutual assistance by the allied agencies also leads to delay in disposal of cases.

\*\*\*\*\*