

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 124**  
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2023

**BENCH-WISE CASES PENDING IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**124 # SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:**

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

- (a) the number of bench-wise cases currently pending in the Supreme Court and the number of cases that are 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 or more than 50 years old;**
- (b) the year-wise number of cases that came in the Supreme Court during the last five years, the number of cases that were decided during this period and the year-wise and bench-wise number thereof; and**
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government during the last five years for the speedy disposal of cases?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

**(a):** As per information received from Supreme Court of India, data on bench-wise pending cases is not maintained in the Integrated Case Management Information System

(ICMIS). However, the number of pending cases for more than 5, 10, 20, 30, 50 or more than 50 years old in Supreme Court of India, as maintained and retrieved from the ICMIS, as on 14.07.2023 is as under:-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Pending as on 14.07.2023</b>
1.	Cases Pending for more than 5 years old	24,426
2.	Cases Pending for more than 10 years old	8,376
3.	Cases Pending for more than 20 years old	204
4.	Confidential	20
5.	Cases Pending for more than 30 years old	2
6.	Cases Pending for more than 40 years old	0

**(b):** The number of cases filed and disposed in Supreme Court of India, during the last five years and current year till 15.07.2023, as maintained and retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 15.07.2023 is as under:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>No, of Cases Filed during the year</b>	<b>No. of Cases disposed during the year</b>
2018	48,282	37,470
2019	46,873	41,100
2020	29,081	20,670
2021	32,655	24,586
2022	42,745	36,436
2023 (till 15.07.2023)	27,998	25,959

As per Supreme Court of India, information pertaining to bench-wise cases is not maintained in their Registry.

**(c):** Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of

adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, 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. Other factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases include, vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. 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 which are detailed below:-

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, 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.

- i.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would ease the life of lawyers and litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 10035 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 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has

increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

- ii.** Further under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT 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. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 815 e-Sewa Kendras 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. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 31.05.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.113 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 408 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence(AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.
- iii.** Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 10.07.2023, 56 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges were appointed and 653 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 1114 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
14.07.2023	25,246	19,858

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv.** 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.
- v.** Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.05.2023, 832 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. 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.
- vi.** With a view 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.** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case 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. . LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. 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 three 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
2023 (upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

- 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.

\*Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	15,75,140	34.38	15,35,775	34.39
Male	30,06,772	65.62	29,30,601	65.61
Caste Category Wise				
General	9,82,636	21.45	9,52,773	21.33
OBC	13,28,505	28.99	12,93,153	28.95
SC	14,88,971	32.50	14,53,283	32.54
ST	7,81,800	17.065	7,67,167	17.18
Total	45,81,912		44,66,376	

- 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.

\*\*\*\*\*