

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO.*124

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

***124. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:**

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

- (a) the approximate number of cases pending in District courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court of the country as on date, State and court-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a huge increase in the pendency of cases in the above courts during the last four years and if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government proposes to set up special courts for speedy disposal of pending cases in view of such huge pendency; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS.

(a): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 07.12.2023, there were 80,320 cases pending in the Supreme Court of India.

The State-wise statement of cases pending in High Courts and District Courts of the country, as on date, are at *ANNEXURE I and II* respectively.

(b): The increase in the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court, High Court and District court in the last four years is as follows:

Rise of Pendency of Cases in last 4 years						
Year	Supreme Court	Increase/ Decrease	High Courts	Increase/ Decrease	District Courts	Increase/ Decrease
31.12.2018	57346	21.68%	4448926	34.39%	30074590	43.67%
31.12.2022	69781		5978714		43209164	

Further, the disposal of pending cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary and the Central Government has no direct role in the said matter.

(c) & (d): Presently, there are no proposals pending with Government to set up special courts. However, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to provide for special courts in order to aid speedy disposal of pending cases. The highlights of the same are as follows:

- i. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Government has established Fast Track Courts for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, senior citizens, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than five years. As on 30.09.2023, there were 848 Fast Track Courts functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children.
- ii. Championing the cause of safety and security of women and girl child, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 2019 for setting up of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious trial and disposal of cases pertaining to rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in a time-bound manner under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. As on 31.10.2023, 758 Fast Track Special Courts including 412 exclusive

POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country, which have disposed of more than 2,00,000 cases. Puducherry made a special request to be included in the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in May, 2023.

- iii. Special Courts have been set up to fast track criminal cases involving elected Members of Parliament (MPs) / Member of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Ten (10) such Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs.
- iv. A notable legislative reform undertaken in this direction is the enactment of The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 which provides for the establishment of Dedicated and Designated Commercial Courts for adjudication of commercial disputes. Through this specialized dispute resolution machinery it aims to transform the commercial litigation landscape in the country by adopting robust and proactive procedures.
- v. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for the establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. As per the Act, it is mandatory for the State Government to set up a Family Court for every city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the Family Courts may be set up if the State Governments deems it necessary. As on 30.09.2023, there were 774 Family Courts functional in the country which had disposed 6,28,997 cases.

ANNEXURE I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS.

Pendency of cases in High Court (as on 7.12.2023)		
Sl. No.	High Court	Total
1	Allahabad High Court	1065951
2	Bombay High Court	719818
3	High Court Of Rajasthan	670849
4	Madras High Court	543894
5	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	451450
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	441052
7	High Court of Karnataka	284971
8	High Court of Kerala	254464
9	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	250260
10	High Court for State of Telangana	250243
11	Calcutta High Court	196675
12	Patna High Court	194895
13	High Court of Gujarat	168329
14	Orissa High Court	145367
15	High Court of Delhi	112653
16	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	96767
17	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	91238
18	High Court of Jharkhand	84947
19	Gauhati High Court	62174
20	High Court of Uttarakhand	50415
21	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	44456
22	High Court of Manipur	4583
23	High Court of Tripura	1282
24	High Court of Meghalaya	1064
25	High Court of Sikkim	179
	Total	6187976

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

ANNEXURE II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR ANSWER ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING 'HUGE PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS.

State-wise Pendency of cases in District Courts (as on 07.12.2023)		
Sl. No.	State	Total
1	Uttar Pradesh	11864461
2	Maharashtra	5209173
3	Bihar	3561486
4	West Bengal	2970223
5	Rajasthan	2313350
6	Karnataka	2063579
7	Madhya Pradesh	2013539
8	Kerala	1848274
9	Gujarat	1635757
10	Odisha	1585076
11	Tamil Nadu	1454302
12	Haryana	1442235
13	Delhi	1218060
14	Telangana	917644
15	Punjab	901402
16	Andhra Pradesh	883957
17	Himachal Pradesh	569561
18	Jharkhand	531754
19	Assam	456209
20	Chhattisgarh	422699
21	Uttarakhand	353118
22	Jammu and Kashmir	284581
23	Chandigarh	172592
24	Goa	56825
25	Tripura	49047
26	Puducherry	34235
27	Meghalaya	16192
28	Manipur	12942
29	Andaman and Nicobar	8772
30	Mizoram	5596
31	DNH at Silvasa	4264
32	Arunachal Pradesh	3557
33	Diu and Daman	3141
34	Nagaland	2815
35	Sikkim	1760
36	Ladakh	1240
	TOTAL	4,48,73,418

Source: - National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)