

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-596
ANSWERED ON – 07/12/2023

VIRTUAL COURTS

596. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Virtual Courts have handled over 3.26 crore cases in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there are only 22 Virtual Courts in identified States/UTs and there is no Virtual Court in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for not having a Virtual Court in Andhra Pradesh and the steps taken to set up one court there?

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) & (b): Virtual Courts is a concept, aimed at eliminating the presence of litigant or lawyer in the court and for adjudication of cases on a virtual platform. The concept has been evolved in order to efficiently utilize court resources and to provide litigants with an effective avenue to settle traffic challans. Virtual Court can be administered by a Judge over a virtual electronic platform whose jurisdiction may extend to the entire State and function 24X7. As on 31.10.2023, there are 25 such courts in 20 States / UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Gujarat (2). As per the data received from eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, over 3.95 crore cases (3,95,96,466) have been

handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 44 lakhs (44,48,543) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 466.32 crores have been realized till 31.10.2023.

(c): As on date, there is no Virtual Court functioning in Andhra Pradesh. In fact, the establishment of Virtual Courts is an administrative matter which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the respective State Governments and the concerned High Court. Central Government as such has no direct role to play in the matter.
