

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.75
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

SETTING UP OF E-FILING CENTERS

***75. Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that there was an order passed by the Supreme Court regarding the establishment of e-filing centres in the country and the Allahabad High Court has stayed that order;
- (b) whether it tantamounts to violation of the order of the Supreme Court; and
- (c) whether Government will facilitate making e-filing centres operational in the State of Uttar Pradesh by cancelling the order of the Allahabad High Court, if so, by when?

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 75 for reply on 08.02.2024 regarding setting up of e-filing centers asked by Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee.

(a) & (b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT (Information and Communication Technology) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023.

Under eCourts Project Phase II, an e-Filing system has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers. This allows the lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7 which makes physical coming to the court unnecessary for filing of papers.

There is no judicial order passed by the Supreme Court regarding the establishment of e-Filing centres in the country. However, the Supreme Court eCommittee which is implementing the eCourts Project in partnership with Department of Justice (DoJ), Government of India, has prepared model rules on e-Filing in 2021 and circulated to all the High Courts for easier adoption of e-Filing. Adoption of these rules by the High Courts is an administrative matter as provided under Article 225 and 227 of the Constitution of India, which falls strictly within the purview and domain of the concerned High Court.

As on 31.12.2023, these rules have been adopted by 21 High Courts. Allahabad High Court has not adopted these rules, as separate instructions for electronic filing (e-Filing) have already been notified by Allahabad High Court in 2017 itself. In person e-Filing facilities have been enabled for filing the cases in Allahabad High Court from anywhere and remote filing of cases is also permissible. E-filing in District Courts has also been enabled through e-Filing version 3.0 of NIC software since August 2023.

To bridge the digital divide, e-Filing centres or e-Sewa Kendras have been established in High Courts and District Courts across the country. These centers are located in the court complexes to extend assistance to lawyers and litigants. These kendras aim to serve as a one-stop centre offering free of cost information on court cases/orders/judgments, facilitation of court related matters, and e-filing services, particularly benefiting those who may lack access to technology or reside in remote areas.

Under eCourts Project Phase II, as on 31.12.2023, a total of 880 e-Sewa Kendras has been established nationwide, underscoring the positive impact of this initiative in providing valuable services to legal practitioners and litigants. 74 e-Sewa Kendras has been established in

all the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh. Under Phase III of eCourts Mission Mode Project, for bridging the digital divide, provision of saturation of all court complexes with 4400 e-Sewa Kendras has been made. For Uttar Pradesh, provision of 353 e-Sewa Kendras has been made with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 30.99 crore.

Thus, no order of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been violated in this regard.

(c): In view of (a) & (b) above, does not arise.