

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-742
ANSWERED ON – 08/02/2024

COURTS WITH FULLY OPERATIONAL VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITIES

742. **SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:**

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

- (a) the State-wise details of total number of courts with fully operational video conferencing facilities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that due to non-payment of telephone bills by district courts, internet facilities have been disconnected thereby hampering the video conferencing facilities; and
- (c) if so, the State-wise details of district courts having outstanding telephone bills?

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 part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 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.

In eCourts Mission Mode Project, during Phase I of the project video conferencing facility has been operationalised between 488 court complexes & 342 corresponding jails. In eCourts Phase II of the project, one video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes

including taluk level courts and funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms (High Court-Wise details attached at Annexure I). Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available (High Court-Wise details of VC Cabins attached at Annexure II). Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

(b): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II, connectivity has been provided by BSNL to court complexes spread across the country using various technologies like OFC (Optical Fibre Cable), RF (Radio Frequency), VSAT (Very Small aperture Terminal). So far, 2977 sites have been commissioned out of 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed (completing 99.4% sites). As part of the eCourts Phase II, a tripartite agreement was signed between Department of Justice, High Courts and respective State Governments which specified the role and responsibilities of each. According to this agreement, payment of charges for connectivity and maintenance post 2 years from the time of installation will be borne by the respective State Governments. However, BSNL has reported that no connection has been disconnected on account of non-payment of bills.

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

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 742 for 08/02/2024 regarding Courts with fully operational Video Conferencing Facilities. High Court wise details of VC equipment for Court Rooms is as follows:

S.No	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipment were already provided	Number of additional equipment to be provided
A	B	C	D	E
1	Allahabad	2438	150	2288
2	Andhra Pradesh	550	212	338
3	Bombay	2178	486	1692
4	Calcutta	840	88	752
5	Chhattisgarh	395	90	305
6	Delhi	479	6	473
7	Gauhati	442	194	248
8	Gujarat	1078	327	751
9	Himachal Pradesh	135	43	92
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	86	132
11	Jharkhand	417	28	389
12	Karnataka	1029	200	829
13	Kerala	508	159	349
14	Madhya Pradesh	1274	203	1071
15	Madras	1169	267	902
16	Manipur	38	37	1
17	Meghalaya	36	64	0
18	Orissa	688	141	547
19	Patna	1046	76	970
20	Punjab & Haryana	972	118	854
21	Rajasthan	1239	238	1001
22	Sikkim	21	17	4
23	Telangana	440	129	311
24	Tripura	78	66	12
25	Uttarakhand	184	52	132
	Total	17892	3477	14443

*Total estimated cost for VC equipment for 14443 court rooms is Rs.28.886 crore

Annexure II

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 742 for 08/02/2024 regarding Courts with fully operational Video Conferencing Facilities. High Court wise details for VC Cabins in Court Complexes is as follows:

S.No.	High Court	Number of VC Cabins
A	B	C
1	Allahabad	438
2	Andhra Pradesh	57
3	Bombay	271
4	Calcutta	128
5	Chhattisgarh	58
6	Delhi	103
7	Gauhati	77
8	Gujarat	94
9	Himachal Pradesh	18
10	Jammu & Kashmir	34
11	Jharkhand	78
12	Karnataka	128
13	Kerala	52
14	Madhya Pradesh	169
15	Madras	140
16	Manipur	12
17	Meghalaya	11
18	Orissa	84
19	Patna	171
20	Punjab & Haryana	135
21	Rajasthan	143
22	Sikkim	11
23	Telangana	52
24	Tripura	17
25	Uttarakhand	25
Total		2506

*Total estimated cost for equipment for VC cabin is Rs.5.012 crore