

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No - 434
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITIES IN DISTRICT COURTS

434. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY :

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

- (a) the number of district courts in the country which still do not have video conferencing facilities and necessary digital equipments for hybrid hearings; and
- (b) the timeline by which Government will have these facilities?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) and (b): 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 collaboration 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). VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails.

eCourts Phase III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore was approved by Union Cabinet in September 2023 for a period of 4 years (2023 onwards) to upgrade digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary. Focus of Phase III is on building a robust governance framework and a judicial system that is more accessible, efficient, and equitable for every individual who seeks justice or is part of the delivery of justice in India. Under this phase, there is a provision for enhancing and upgrading the available infrastructure of Video Conferencing in 10200 establishments, including 500 Jails, 700 District Government Hospitals and 9000 Courts at an amount of Rs. 228.48 crore.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Rajya Sabha admitted question no RSUQ 434 for 28/11/2024 regarding Video conferencing facilities in district courts. 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 admitted question no RSUQ 434 for 28/11/2024 regarding Video conferencing facilities in district courts. 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