

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

FAMILY COURTS

437# SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

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

- (a) the number of family courts functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases registered, disposed and pending in these courts during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Jharkhand;
- (c) whether the states are facing problems in disposal of these cases filed in these courts;
- (d) if yes, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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) & (b): The details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise and cases registered, disposed and pending during the last three years including the information pertaining to the State of Jharkhand are at **Annexure**.

(c) to (e): The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith. Under Section 3(1) (a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the family courts may also be set up if the State Governments deem it necessary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

In Family Courts, delays in proceedings exacerbate tensions and prolong emotional stress, hindering timely dispute resolution. Enforcing decisions on child custody, visitation rights, and financial support remains challenging despite court rulings, leading to continued conflict and frustration. Additionally, the requirement for travel to another city for court appearances imposes significant logistical and financial burdens, especially for families already under strain. It is also important to note that counsellors play a vital role in providing advice and guidance, but their effectiveness depends on proper training and capacity building. Improving Family Courts necessitates providing sufficient infrastructure and specialized judges with adequate training. Sensitizing judges, court staff, and stakeholders, along with gender sensitivity training, is imperative to ensure fair treatment, reduce bias, and protect the rights of all parties, particularly women. Considering the appointment of lady judges and counsellors could further enhance the system's effectiveness.

The Government has brought these issues to the attention of the States and High Courts by addressing communications at the level of Minister of Law and Justice to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and the Chief Justices of all High Courts. The latest communication on the subject was sent on 15.07.2023. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedures for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The Family Courts are also covered by the ambit of these initiatives. The major initiatives are given below:

- i. **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was launched in 1993. Under this Scheme, the number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 23,590 as on 31.10.2024 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,076 as on 31.10.2024. Since inception of the Scheme, an amount of Rs.11583.07 crore has been released till 20.11.2024. The Scheme has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs.9,000 crore, including central share amounting to Rs.5,307 crore. Besides construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it now also covers construction of Lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

ii. **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** The Department of Justice, Government of India in close coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India has been implementing the eCourts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 till 2023. Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Ason date, the litigants can access case information and 27.65 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. The eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, e-Courts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Rs.12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

With a view to handling the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtualhearings smoother, 1375 e-Sewa Kendras (Facilitation centres) in District & Subordinate courts and 28 e-Sewa Kendra (Facilitation centres) in High courts had been made functional to facilitate citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information, e-filing facilities, etc. Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 24,53,0538 cases while the High Court heard 89,63,007 cases (totaling more than 3.3 crore) using video conferencing till 30.09.2024. Rs.28.886 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails.

iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in District and Subordinate Courts:** Sanctioned and working strengths of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts have increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.10.2024	25,725	20,487

iv. **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High

Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

Annexure as referred to in Reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 437

State/UT-wise details of functional family courts, No. of Cases Registered, Cases disposed and Cases pending during the last three years

(As on 30.09.2024)

S.No	State/UTs	Functional Court	Cases Registered			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending			
			2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	6877	8552	5876	4990	8090	6046	10447	13205	13672	
2	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	262	369	0	307	305	0	799	921	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Assam	7	6130	5758	3952	7450	4937	4213	7532	7158	7357	
5	Bihar	39	24085	22737	18973	22501	21445	25234	71376	72668	67662	
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7	Chhattisgarh	29	15548	17550	12322	14995	16763	13648	18718	19505	19545	
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	Delhi	30	22664	0	27273	21014	0	30379	***	***	52282	
10	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11	Gujarat	50	24910	27194	44037	26557	30084	30659	34761	31954	50128	
12	Haryana	28	46271	49164	39994	48301	43652	40438	62231	64656	68126	
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	6275	4171	3014	5470	4160	3848	5924	6301	5923	
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	0	8587	0	0	6057	0	0	15192	
15	Jharkhand	31	13312	15782	10514	16670	16855	11487	15999	15306	15702	
16	Karnataka	41	28208	29391	20395	28259	30409	20791	39397	38407	40260	
17	Kerala	37	68111	84610	45628	68289	86250	53418	113756	112267	109740	
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	128	0	0	76	0	0	120	
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20	Madhya Pradesh	64	12974	41598	32874	13724	43231	34194	65283	64020	66158	
21	Maharashtra	51	40186	38830	30236	39673	40399	32514	67828	66259	67242	
22	Manipur	4	674	560	439	1058	422	539	628	720	662	
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25	Nagaland	2	257	210	176	223	194	191	199	233	238	
26	Odisha	30	14653	15588	11188	19567	18577	14401	39786	36797	34694	
27	Puducherry *	2	1232	1094	876	1363	845	594	1212	1473	1845	
28	Punjab	33	67286	68711	55547	71313	72668	58881	79413	73388	77604	
29	Rajasthan	50	43357	50912	34174	41740	48155	38233	47957	50714	49805	
30	Sikkim	6	349	287	251	417	325	258	148	35	160	
31	Tamil Nadu *	40	25645	22608	17688	27775	23039	19240	30952	32222	33213	
32	Telangana	23	11814	13439	9166	10568	13227	10065	7213	18888	19007	
33	Tripura	9	4028	3636	2420	3663	3726	3075	3977	3957	3539	
34	Uttar Pradesh	189	229098	287494	188747	234047	284091	214561	390256	396875	395853	
35	Uttarakhand	27	13342	14707	9926	14722	14726	10371	14617	14591	16421	
36	West Bengal	5	301	657	9056	351	312	1460	1124	1517	9899	
	Total	848	727587	825502	643828	744700	826889	685176	1130734	1143915	1242970	
			*** Data not provided by the concerned High Court									
			* Data provided by the concerned High Courts till Aug'24									

