

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1709
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1709. Shri Raghav Chadha

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

- (a) the funds allocated and utilised for upgrading legal infrastructure for the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry has any plan in the near future to utilise artificial intelligence to address judicial backlog; and
- (c) if so, the details of any investment being made in this direction?

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): The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice has been supplementing the resources of the State / UT Governments, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of judicial infrastructure of the district and subordinate judiciaries, wherein financial assistance is provided in the prescribed fund-sharing ratio to the States/UTs for the development of five components namely, court halls and residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms for the convenience of lawyers and litigants. Since the inception of the scheme in the year 1993-94 till date, a sum of Rs.11,886.29 crore been released. Year-wise details of funds allocated and utilized under the scheme for last five years and current financial year are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Financial year	Funds Allocation	Funds Utilized
2019-20	982.00	982.00
2020-21	593.00	593.00
2021-22	770.44	684.60
2022-23	848.00	858.00*
2023-24	1051.00	1060.17*
2024-25 (as on 28.02.2025)	1123.40	958.28

**The slightly excess funds released in the FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 is on account of re-appropriation of funds from Gram Nyayalaya Scheme, which is a Sub Scheme of CSS for development of Judicial Infrastructure.*

Besides, the Ministry of Law and Justice is also implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode project, as a Central Sector Scheme for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the Indian courts. Phase-I (2011 to 2015) of the scheme aimed at providing basic ICT infrastructure to the courts, while Phase-II (2015 to 2023) complemented Phase-I, by providing enhanced services to different stakeholders. Phase-III of the scheme (2023 to 2027) was launched with a capital outlay of Rs. 7210 crore. It aims at ushering a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, on-line and paperless courts, through digitization of the entire court records and bringing in universalization of e-filing / e-payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Seva kendras. There is a plan to put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision making for judges and registries, while scheduling or prioritising the cases. Year wise details of funds allocated and utilized under e-Courts project during last five years areas under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Budget Allocation	Total Expenditure
2019-20	180	179.26
2020-21	180	179.31
2021-22	98.82	98.30
2022-23*	0.01	0.00
2023-24	825	768.25
2024-25 (as on 28.02.2025)	1200	1134.73

** Phase-II of eCourts project was completed in March, 2022 and phase-III of scheme started in September, 2023 and a token money of Rs. 1.00 lakh was allocated for the FY 2022-23.*

(b) & (c) As per information provided by the Supreme Court of India and available with the Ministry, under e-Courts Project Phase III, an attempt is being made to integrate modern technologies for smoother user experience and to build a "smart" system in which the Registries will have minimal data entry and scrutiny of files. To create a smart system, the latest technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its subsets Machine Learning (ML), Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Natural Language Processing (NLP), etc., are being used in the e-Courts software applications. AI is being used in areas such as intelligent scheduling, prediction and forecast, improving administrative efficiency, Natural Language Processing (NLP), automated filing, enhancing the case information system, communicating with the litigants through chatbots and translation.
