

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1712
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2025

PENDING CASES IN THE COURTS

1712. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in the Courts of the country, year-wise and State-wise data for the last five years;
- (b) whether there is any online dispute resolution mechanism currently in operation; and
- (c) the steps adopted to reduce the number of pending cases in the country?

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 number of cases pending in the Courts of the country, year-wise and State-wise data for the last five years in Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts is at *Annexure-I, II and III* respectively.

(b): Recognizing the significance of Information and Communication Technology for dispute resolution, the Government of India has incorporated provisions for online mediation under Section 30 of the Mediation Act, 2023. In addition, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is a key component of Phase III of the eCourts Project, which is being implemented over a four-year period from 2023-24 to 2026-27. The framework for the use of ODR is being determined by the e-Committee of the Supreme Court in consultation with the High Courts, ensuring a structured and effective approach to online dispute resolution.

- (c): The disposal of pending cases in a time bound manner is within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government has unwavering commitment towards speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:
- i. 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 coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
 - ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.
 - iii. Further under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 31.01.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide

by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.66 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 714.99 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

- iv. The Government has been regularly filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts. From 01.05.2014 to 06.03.2025, 66 Judges were appointed in the Supreme Court. 1024 new Judges were appointed and 788 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till now. The sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as under:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
28.02.2025	25,786	20,511

Source: MIS Portal of the Department of Justice

However, filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.

- v. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.
- vi. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 31.01.2025, 860 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts

(FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 31.01.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,06,000 cases.

vii. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

viii. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendment to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

ix. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal

Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
Total	19,62,73,548	4,83,08,835	24,45,82,383

- x. The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

*Percentage-wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

Category	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
Caste Category Wise				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
Total	1,10,05,420		1,08,69,661	

*Data as on 28.02.2025.

- xi. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro

Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1712 FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN THE COURTS'.

Pending Cases in Supreme Court of India, year-wise for the last five years and current year

Sl. No.	Court	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	*2025 (as on 07.03.2025)
1	Supreme Court of India	65,086	70,239	78,797	80,674	82,496	80,963

Source: Supreme Court of India

*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1712 FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN THE COURTS'.

Pending Cases in High Courts, year-wise for the last five years and current year

Sl. No	Name of High Court	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2024	*Pendency of Cases as on 07.03.2025
1	Allahabad	993031	1031587	1033621	1066111	1144553	1159107
2	Bombay	325332	353143	380469	400461	414919	656581
3	Calcutta	237363	234909	220734	206437	208421	199960
4	Gauhati	40998	44356	47516	49236	52341	64322
5	Telangana	223064	240029	233682	231575	229221	245101
6	Andhra Pradesh	205556	223783	243629	251924	250051	246169
7	Chhattisgarh	75836	81001	91184	90240	84305	83243
8	Delhi	91279	101685	105625	112891	116616	132315
9	Gujarat	143167	155006	161922	167825	171948	172036
10	Himachal Pradesh	74158	82354	91210	99465	93942	95161
11	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	59162	48318	47521	49293	50422	45388
12	Jharkhand	88435	88364	87977	86000	74513	73345
13	Karnataka	249733	246413	264234	282039	297609	307327
14	Kerala	212515	226494	240437	253190	247545	250834
15	Madhya Pradesh	383784	408527	429567	445382	464092	474476
16	Manipur	2849	3218	3230	3473	3651	5389
17	Meghalaya	1064	1201	920	841	950	1281
18	Punjab and Haryana	378856	451985	446068	436630	422295	428753
19	Rajasthan	518499	560062	604868	601278	610027	669970
20	Sikkim	239	179	163	178	208	219
21	Tripura	2343	1736	1602	1269	1038	1031
22	Uttarakhand	37923	40963	44512	49846	55323	56261
23	Madras	269417	259980	234545	212921	198110	520999
24	Orissa	172900	196483	164622	146884	146293	150005
25	Patna	179462	226071	212173	197158	202289	206822
Total		4966965	5307847	5392031	5442547	5540682	6246095

Source: Supreme Court of India

*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

ANNEXURE-III

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1712 FOR ANSWER ON 13.03.2025 REGARDING 'PENDING CASES IN THE COURTS'.

Pending Cases in District and Subordinate Courts, year-wise for the last five years and current year

Sl.No	States	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2020	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2021	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2022	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2023	Pendency of Cases as on 31.12.2024	Pendency of Cases as on 07.03.2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	649157	785379	841998	876689	893993	920059
2	Telangana	691646	790360	841405	873848	907392	945370
3	Andman & Nicobar	9839	9321	9234	9950	10407	8068
4	Auranchal Pradesh	12651	14318	15923	16556	15335	9895
5	Assam	360753	415024	485455	445759	491720	510050
6	Bihar	3016743	3276696	3464725	3609527	3716100	3616535
7	Chandigarh	70633	72384	89254	104116	120210	103309
8	Chattisgarh	331849	381984	414839	414463	417325	478849
9	Delhi	1018642	1231373	1440549	1359103	1527969	1537159
10	Diu and Daman	6281	6523	6733	7305	3255	3306
11	DNH at Silvassa					4485	4553
12	Goa	58967	59414	56319	57195	59190	60162
13	Gujarat	1917992	1952262	1725939	1547276	1528794	1715270
14	Haryana	1101330	1313881	1496883	1533521	1489585	1465203
15	Himachal Pradesh	420891	464892	483642	578246	631442	645127
16	Jammu & Kashmir	198771	216245	272543	247244	266146	356904
17	Ladakh						1465
18	Jharkhand	427130	490905	504697	524241	521274	546483
19	Karnataka	1709220	1780802	1864827	1925330	2060206	2256314
20	Kerala	2089289	2089147	1991193	1851414	1750373	1747110
21	Madhya Pradesh	1727293	1920613	2008566	2023950	2052363	2037051
22	Maharashtra	4504573	4800895	4953521	5131895	5510544	5563715
23	Manipur	6957	8183	7590	8125	7615	12560
24	Meghalaya	15830	16010	15014	14136	13227	15032
25	Mizoram	6338	6304	5620	6113	6480	6658
26	Nagaland	4206	4569	4443	3923	3881	3353
27	Orissa	1592250	1789677	1826100	1873312	1920825	1658162
28	Puducherry	33470	32998	31868	32086	33352	35463
29	Punjab	843791	945609	923581	875009	863867	878123
30	Rajasthan	1947688	2162774	2272463	2422125	2455623	2414983
31	Sikkim	1455	1616	1696	1523	1659	1702
32	Tamil Nadu	1263758	1331944	1387919	1375098	1386582	1539857
33	Tripura	44654	43096	40661	43526	43098	53098
34	U.T of Lakshadweep	453	470	540	512	535	527
35	Uttar Pradesh	8781104	9966606	10986875	11147755	11486655	11880542
36	Uttarakhand	249350	287204	308694	331002	328911	354653
37	West Bengal	2170788	2384020	2512418	2698188	2923585	3385051
Total		37285742	41053498	43293727	43970061	45454003	46771721

Source: Supreme Court of India

*National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)