

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3795
ANSWERED ON – 03/04/2025

FAMILY COURTS IN THE COUNTRY

3795. **DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:**

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 filed, settled and pending in these Courts during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether States are facing problems in settlement of cases registered in these Courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of measures taken by 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, 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/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.

Further, 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 28.02.2025, 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 28.02.2025, 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

28.02.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 736.11crores 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. 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.
- v. 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 28.02.2025, 857 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 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,13,000 cases.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

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.

- viii. 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

- ix. 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.

- x. 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 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

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

			Cases Registered			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending		
Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Functional Courts	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	8552	9086	1323	8090	8347	1419	13205	13877	13781
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	262	547	70	307	407	67	799	939	942
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	5758	5693	768	4937	5383	698	7158	7468	7503
5	Bihar	39	22737	25499	3850	21445	31013	4183	72668	67154	66821
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	17550	17793	3319	16763	18373	2909	19505	18925	19335
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	30	0	41518	6589	0	40332	6263	0	52242	52568
10	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Gujarat	108	27194	62146	8470	30084	42101	6314	31954	51999	53077
12	Haryana	33	49164	55431	8842	43652	51875	8235	64656	68212	68819
13	Himachal Pradesh	3	4171	4456	439	4160	4935	397	6301	5822	5864
14	Jammu & Kashmir	4	0	12399	1497	0	9045	1425	0	15180	15252
15	Jharkhand	30	15782	14752	2619	16855	14553	2800	15306	15571	15386
16	Karnataka	41	29391	29217	5246	30409	27829	5033	38407	39795	40010

			Cases Registered			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending		
Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Functional Courts	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)	2023	2024	2025 (As of 28.02.2025)
17	Kerala	37	84610	71201	11955	86250	72086	11307	112267	111394	112042
18	Ladakh	2	0	184	15	0	133	4	0	101	112
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	64	41598	45769	7106	43231	44105	6545	64020	66218	66779
21	Maharashtra	51	38830	42781	9824	40399	41442	10576	66259	67598	66846
22	Manipur	4	560	635	99	422	687	125	720	747	632
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	210	258	34	194	262	38	233	208	225
26	Odisha	30	15588	15992	2689	18577	18156	2637	36797	34633	34685
27	Puducherry	2	1094	1327	175	845	873	195	1473	1888	1868
28	Punjab	34	68711	74231	8758	72668	73091	8155	73388	76585	77188
29	Rajasthan	50	50912	48736	8757	48155	51089	7434	50714	48361	49684
30	Sikkim	6	287	323	33	325	312	30	35	141	156
31	Tamil Nadu	40	22608	26308	1989	23039	25689	1983	32222	33393	33158
32	Telangana	22	13439	13393	2205	13227	13385	2327	18888	18896	18774
33	Tripura	9	3636	3468	617	3726	3770	615	3957	3645	3647
34	Uttar Pradesh	189	287494	288012	40904	284091	284586	38852	396875	399939	401991
35	Uttarakhand	27	14707	16472	2260	14726	14427	2136	14591	16636	16760
36	West Bengal	6	657	11473	1303	312	2015	932	1517	10975	11346
	TOTAL	914	825502	939100	141755	826889	900301	133634	1143915	1248542	1255251

