

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1383
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025

PENDENCY OF CASES IN VARIOUS COURTS

1383. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases are pending in various courts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether measures have been taken by Government to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any study has been conducted regarding the success of alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of pending cases in courts;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other steps taken by Government for early disposal of pending cases?

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) to (d) & (g): As per information available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of pending cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts as on 08.12.2025 are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pending Cases
1.	Supreme Court	90,897
2.	High Courts	63,63,406
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,84,57,343

The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. Pendency of cases in courts arise due to several factors which inter alia, include complexity of the facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stakeholders, viz., bar, investigation agencies, witness and

litigants, besides the availability of physical infrastructure, supporting court staff, etc. The Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts, a sum of Rs. 12,358.15 crore have been released since the inception of this Scheme in 1993-94. The number of Court halls has increased from 15,818 (as on 30.06.2014) to 22,606 (as on 31.10.2025) and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 (as on 30.06.2014) to 20,008 (as on 31.10.2025), under this Scheme.
- iii. The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. Till 30.09.2025, 579.53 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.81 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in 11 High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 1987 across High Courts and District Courts.
- iv. The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts from time to time. From 01.05.2014 to 26.11.2025, 72 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court. 1156 new Judges were appointed and 819 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts during the same period. The sanctioned strength of Judges of the High Courts has increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1122 till date. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- v. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- vi. Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. Further, ten Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs to fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs.

- vii. As on 30.09.2025, 773 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 400 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.
- viii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- ix. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- x. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.
- xi. 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. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instil Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(e) & (f): No study/assessment has been conducted regarding the success of alternative dispute redressal system for the early disposal of the pending cases in the courts.
