

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2025**

PENDENCY OF ENVIRONMENT RELATED CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

1386 DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) the current pendency of environment-related cases before district courts, High Court and NGT pertaining to Maharashtra;
- (b) whether the delays in adjudication are affecting the forest protection, land demarcation and coastal-zone enforcement and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to expedite such cases through fast track courts, digital monitoring or special benches; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes additional legal reforms to strengthen environmental justice delivery in the State and if so, the details thereof?

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): As per data provided by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, the total pendency of environment related cases in various courts of Maharashtra is as under:

S. No	Name of the Court	Pendency of environment related cases
1.	High Court of judicature at Bombay including	250

	Benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad Circuit Bench at Kolhapur and High Court of Bombay at- Goa	
2.	District Judiciary in Maharashtra*	7,809
3.	District Judiciary in Goa*	25
4.	Union Territory of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	Nil

*As on 30.11.2025

As per the information provided by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, pendency of environment related cases before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Pune Bench pertaining to Maharashtra is **151**.

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, cooperation 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 NGT was set up on 18th October, 2010 under the NGT Act, 2010 for the purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The NGT has five places of sitting i.e., the Principal Bench at New Delhi and Zonal Benches at Pune, Kolkata, Bhopal and Chennai.
- (ii) The Government has been filling up vacancies of Judges in the High Courts from time to time. Filling up of vacancies in District and Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State/UT Governments and High Courts concerned.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, special focus is on amalgamation of latest technologies for increasing access to Justice and greater transparency. Government has

been supplementing the resources of the State Governments/UTs for providing suitable infrastructure facilities for the District and Subordinate Judiciary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary.

- (v) Government has promoted Alternate Dispute Resolution methods, through progressive amendments in various acts such as, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes.
- (vi) 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. Lok Adalats are held as an Alternative Dispute Mechanism where the disputes/ cases pending in the courts 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.
- (vii) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has informed that Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019 was issued with a view to conserve and protect the unique environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal areas and to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles. As per the CRZ Notification, 2019, the State Government or the Union Territory (UT) Coastal Zone Management Authorities (CZMAs) shall be primarily responsible for enforcement and monitoring of the Notification. To assist in this task, the State Government and the Union Territory shall constitute District-Level Committees under the Chairmanship of the concerned District Magistrate, including at least three representatives from the local traditional coastal communities including fisherfolk, State/UT CZMAs have been empowered under Sections 5, 10, and 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to enforce and monitor the provisions of the CRZ Notification.
