

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2190
ANSWERED ON 18/12/2025

PENDENCY OF CASES IN COURTS

2190. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has introduced any reforms to reduce the pendency of cases in the courts across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are plans to set up fast-track courts for cases related to women's safety and cyber crimes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government has taken any IT initiatives to improve judicial efficiency and transparency; and
- (f) 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) & (b): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, 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 Government is accelerating the disposal of cases by rapidly modernizing the judiciary through advanced digital infrastructure under the e-Court Project (Phase III).
- 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. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.

- 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. 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.

(c) & (d): The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during the period 2015-2020 for expeditious trial of specific categories of cases including heinous crimes, civil cases involving women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, individuals afflicted with terminal illnesses. As per information received from the High Courts, 866 FTCs are functional across 21 State/UTs as on 31.10.2025.

The Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are dedicated to the time-bound trial and disposal of pending cases related to rape and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. As per data provided by the High Courts, 773 FTSCs, including 400 exclusive POCSO Courts, are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.09.2025. Since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, these courts have collectively disposed of 3,50,685 cases, while 2,43,615 cases are currently pending.

(e) & (f): 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 date, 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.
