

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3113
ANSWERED ON – 19/03/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES

3113 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts as on date, State-wise and court-wise and the number of cases pending for more than five years;
- (b) the vacancies of judges at each level and the steps taken to fill them up;
- (c) the measures undertaken to reduce pendency, including e-courts, virtual hearings, fast-track courts and ADR mechanisms;
- (d) the allocation and utilization of funds for judicial infrastructure; and
- (e) whether any time-bound roadmap has been prepared for reducing the pendency substantially and 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): The number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts as on date, State-wise and court-wise and the number of cases pending for more than five years are at **Annexure I & II**.

(b): The vacancies of judges at each level, as on 13.03.2026 are as under:

Sl. No.	Court	Vacancy Position
1.	Supreme Court	1
2.	High Courts	316
3.	District & Subordinate Courts	4,887

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Courts vests with

the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court.

Filling up of the vacancy in the higher Judiciary is a continuous, integrated and collaborative process between the executive and the judiciary. It requires consultation and approval from various Constitutional Authorities both at State and Central level which are obtained in accordance with the MoP. The recommendations also have to be considered in the light of such other reports as may be available to the Government in respect of the names under consideration. The recommendations of the High Court Collegium, the State Governments and the Government of India are then forwarded to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for advice. Only those persons whose names have been recommended by the SCC are appointed as Judges of the High Courts.

Further, filling up of vacant positions of the judicial officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned. As per the Constitutional framework, in exercise of powers conferred under the proviso to Article 309 read with Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the respective State Government, in consultation with the High Court, frames the rules and regulations regarding the appointment and recruitment of Judicial Officers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order passed in January 2007 in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case, has inter-alia stipulated certain timelines, which are to be followed by the States and the respective High Courts for recruitment of judges in District and Subordinate Courts.

(c) to (e): 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 staff etc. 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 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, 660.36 crores pages of court records have been digitized in the High Courts and District Courts. More than 3.97 crore hearings have taken place through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in several High Courts. The number of e Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) has increased to 2,444 across High Courts and District Courts.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, 774 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act, and have collectively disposed of 3,71,849 cases since their inception, as on 31.12.2025. The financial outlay under the scheme is Rs. 1952.23 crore with Rs. 1207.24 crore as Central Share to be incurred from Nirbhaya Fund on the CSS pattern. The Central Government, as on 05.03.2026, has released a total amount of Rs. 1,210.92 crore to States/UTs for the operationalization of FTSCs since the inception of the Scheme in 2019.
- iii. 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. The details of the cases disposed of in Lok Adalats from 2016 to January 2026 are as under:

Lok Adalat	Pre-litigative cases settled	Pending cases settled	Total
National Lok Adalat	33,80,76,089	8,45,59,866	42,26,35,955
State Lok Adalats	39,40,715	67,10,194	1,06,50,909
Permanent Lok Adalats (cases relating to public utility service)	14,64,728	-	14,64,728

- iv. The primary responsibility for the development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Courts in the States/UTs, rests with the State/UT Governments. However, to augment the resources of the State /UT Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for District and Subordinate Courts by providing financial assistance to the State/UT Governments in the prescribed fund sharing between Center and States since 1993-94. As on 28.02.2026, Rs. 770.53 crore were allocated and Rs. 629.66 crore were utilized for judicial infrastructure development across the country.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3113 FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES'

Number of cases pending, as on 13.03.2026, and the number of cases pending for more than five years, in the Supreme Court and High Courts			
		Pendency as on 13.03.2026	Cases pending for more than 5 years
Supreme Court of India		92,621	24,445
Sl No.	Name of the High Court		
1	Allahabad High Court	12,26,147	7,33,395
2	Bombay High Court	6,65,758	3,46,741
3	Calcutta High Court	2,04,445	1,11,239
4	Gauhati High Court	64,502	24,358
5	High Court for State of Telangana	2,36,590	1,03,050
6	High Court Of Chhattisgarh	75,994	25,151
7	High Court Of Rajasthan	6,73,553	2,93,502
8	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	2,48,934	1,16,331
9	High Court of Delhi	1,26,290	45,592
10	High Court of Gujarat	1,74,091	71,973
11	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	1,04,133	40,527
12	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	43,314	13,930
13	High Court of Jharkhand	72,905	30,458
14	High Court of Karnataka	3,31,680	78,843
15	High Court of Kerala	2,47,671	1,07,493
16	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	4,78,434	2,55,972
17	High Court of Manipur	6,042	1,094
18	High Court of Meghalaya	1,785	100
19	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	4,20,452	2,34,216
20	High Court of Sikkim	297	16
21	High Court of Tripura	1,388	6
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	60,859	22,891
23	Madras High Court	5,53,854	2,05,621
24	Orissa High Court	1,63,591	69,359
25	Patna High Court	2,18,181	91,084
	Total	64,00,890	30,22,942

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

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Number of cases pending, as on 13.03.2026, and the number of cases pending for more than five years, in the District & Subordinate Courts			
Sl No.	State/UT	Pendency as on 13.03.2026	Cases pending for more than 5 years
1	Andaman and Nicobar	8,627	4,254
2	Andhra Pradesh	9,76,082	1,54,956
3	Arunachal Pradesh	15,719	4,327
4	Assam	5,78,555	68,130
5	Bihar	37,19,519	20,85,650
6	Chandigarh	1,01,946	6,478
7	Chhattisgarh	5,16,848	43,774
8	Delhi	16,02,441	2,79,489
9	Goa	62,025	17,109
10	Gujarat	20,69,656	2,58,773
11	Haryana	15,46,857	2,21,443
12	Himachal Pradesh	6,23,427	81,154
13	Jammu and Kashmir	3,52,201	82,675
14	Jharkhand	5,73,546	1,62,249
15	Karnataka	24,36,610	4,28,675
16	Kerala	18,00,628	3,53,933
17	Ladakh	1,629	110
18	Lakshadweep	557	97
19	Madhya Pradesh	21,22,639	3,92,365
20	Maharashtra	60,60,201	17,42,851
21	Manipur	14,139	3,201
22	Meghalaya	16,671	5,810
23	Mizoram	7,343	545
24	Nagaland	3,940	1,129
25	Odisha	18,20,475	7,46,383
26	Puducherry	36,414	8,499
27	Punjab	9,77,912	65,405
28	Rajasthan	27,17,617	7,00,519
29	Sikkim	2,284	40
30	Tamil Nadu	17,63,798	2,78,994
31	Telangana	9,91,205	1,69,772
32	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	8,359	1,770
33	Tripura	67,190	4,206
34	Uttar Pradesh	1,21,37,452	48,66,682
35	Uttarakhand	3,13,735	55,687
36	West Bengal	39,08,587	15,09,157
	Total	4,99,56,834	1,48,06,291

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)