

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2980
ANSWERED ON – 13/08/2026

PENDENCY OF CASES IN SUBORDINATE COURTS OF BIHAR

2980 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the increasing pendency of civil and criminal cases in subordinate courts across Bihar;
- (b) whether shortages of judicial officers, court infrastructure and digital facilities have contributed to delays in justice delivery;
- (c) the measures taken in coordination with the State Government to improve judicial infrastructure and case management systems; and
- (d) whether a time-bound action plan has been prepared to reduce pendency in Bihar's subordinate courts?

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): As per data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 07.08.2026, there are 37,81,445 cases (5,47,036 civil and 32,34,409 criminal) pending in District & Subordinate Courts across Bihar.

(b) to (d): Filling up of vacant positions of the Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the State Governments and High Courts 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 recruitment and appointment of Judicial Officers. At present, the Sanctioned Strength of Judicial Officers in Bihar is 2,030. It has been informed by the Patna High Court that there is shortage of 174 Court Halls vis a vis the sanctioned strength of Judicial Officers. However, the availability of Court Halls and Residential Quarters is more than the Judicial Officers' working strength, which is 374 less than the sanctioned strength.

The primary responsibility for development of infrastructure facilities for District and Subordinate Courts rests with the State Government. As per information received from the Patna High Court, State Judicial Infrastructure Authority (SJIA) Committee has been constituted for monitoring the infrastructure facilities of the Subordinate Courts of Bihar. The Committee convenes meetings from time to time with the concerned authorities of the State Government. However, to augment the resources of States/UTs, Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94. The Scheme covers five components, namely, Court Halls, Residential Units for Judicial Officers, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer Rooms. Under the said Scheme, Central funds amounting to Rs. 663.06 cr have been provided to the State of Bihar since inception of the Scheme. In the current financial year (FY 2026-27), tentative allocation of Rs. 50.88 cr for Bihar has been done, out of which Mother sanction for Rs. 25.44 cr has been issued.

The Government of India, in coordination with the e-Committee of Supreme Court, has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project. Under the Project, 2204 courts have been computerized in Bihar. In addition, various other initiatives have been taken, which include e-filing of cases, e-payment of court fee/fines, Case Information System for better case management, National Service and Tracking of Electronics Process system for summons/court notices, Video Conferencing facility in 1373 establishments (including courts, jails, hospitals), digitization of over 6.79 crore pages of court record, JustIS app to help Judges for effective monitoring of judicial business, establishment of 105 e-Sewa Kendra for citizens and installation of Solar Power facility in 54 court complexes. Further, litigants can access court orders/judgments and other details of all the courts cases at National Judicial Data Grid.

The Government is fully committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, involves timely appointment of Judges, better infrastructure for courts including computerization, promoting Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism, enactment and implementation of New Criminal Laws 2023 and establishment of Fast Track Special Courts. However, the disposal of court cases depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of Judges and Judicial officers, supporting court staff, physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, quality of investigation, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz bar, investigation agencies, witnesses, litigants.

The Patna High Court has implemented the Action Plan for Arrears Reduction in District Judiciary (APAAr-DJ), formulated by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, for disposal of all old cases pending for over 30 years, 20-30 years, and 10-20 years.
