

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587
ANSWERED ON – 23/07/2026

LEGAL REFORMS

587 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering any new legal reform measures to ensure better access to justice to the common citizens of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of cases pending in various courts, category-wise?

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 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) was approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs. 7,210 crore to make justice more accessible. More than 4,14,89,062 court hearings have been conducted through Video conferencing and live streaming is functional in several High Courts. The number of e-Sewa Kendras (facilitation centres) providing free eCourts services has increased to 2,515 across High Courts and District Courts.
- ii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme, for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act, 775 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 398 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional across 29 States/UTs as on 30.04.2026. Till 30.04.2026, Fast Track Special Courts have collectively disposed of 3,87,481 cases.
- iii. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- iv. The Government has also enacted The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018 with a view to reduce pendency. In addition, New Criminal Laws 2023 have been enacted.
- v. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have also been promoted by the Government. 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.

- vi. 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.
- vii. The Department of Justice has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) 2.0, with a total outlay of Rs. 255 crores for a period of five years (2026-2031) for providing a comprehensive, integrated solution on Access to Justice at a pan India level through Tele-Law (pre-litigation legal advice through telephone), Nyaya Bandhu (Pro-bono Advocates), Legal Literacy & Legal Awareness and VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonised Legal Initiatives)- Sanjeevani Programmes. As on 30th June, 2026, more than 1.13 crore pre-litigation legal advices have been provided across the country. As on 30th June, 2026, total 10,835 advocates have volunteered and registered on Nyaya Bandhu platform. Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot facilitates automated query handling, structured data capture, and multilingual interaction support through BHASHINI-enabled functionalities, ensuring language is not a barrier to justice-related services.

(c): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), as on 16.07.2026, the number of pending cases in various courts, category-wise are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total pendency
1.	Supreme Court	74339	21685	96024
2.	High Courts	4513738	1958798	6472536
3.	District & Subordinate Courts	11333509	38512029	49845538
