

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1453**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017.**

**Hearing of High Profile Cases**

**†1453. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK:**

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

- (a) whether any proposal regarding mandatory hearing of high profile cases through video conferencing in various prisons of the country is under consideration of the Government;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the manner in which the above said initiative is likely to prove helpful in early hearing of the under trials and in providing time bound and fair justice to the victims and their families?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)**

(a) & (b): The step taken to dispose of cases of any kind is part of the larger plan to check delays and deficiencies in investigation into serious crimes and by ensuring progress of trials without hindrances and hurdles. There is, therefore, an emphasis on holistic approach.

As per information made available by the Supreme Court, Video Conferencing equipments have been provided to 493 Court Complexes and 347 Central and District Jails. In Phase II of the eCourts Project, funds to the tune of Rs.64.33 crore have been released to High Courts for procurement of video conference equipments at the remaining Court Complexes and Jails (2,747 Court Complexes and 928 Jails).

(c) : Supreme Court of India has recently directed that in matrimonial or custody matters or in proceedings between parties to a marriage or arising out of disputes between parties to a marriage, wherever the defendants / respondents are located outside the jurisdiction of the court, the court where proceedings are instituted, may examine whether it is in the interest of justice to incorporate any safeguards for ensuring that summoning of defendants/ respondent does not result in denial of justice. Order incorporating such safeguards may be sent along with the summons. The safeguards, *inter-alia*, include availability of video conferencing facility.

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