

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2756**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 03<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2018.**

**Action Plan for Reform in Judiciary**

**2756. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared the draft for the future action plan for reforms in judiciary in the country;**
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): During the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of the High Courts held at New Delhi in April 2015, reduction of pendency and backlog of cases in courts emerged as an area which required focused attention at the High Court level. The Chief Justices of the High Courts in the Conference held on 03<sup>rd</sup> and 04<sup>th</sup> April 2015 have resolved that each High Court shall establish an Arrears Committee, which would go into the factors responsible for the delays and prepare an action plan to clear the backlog of cases pending for more than five years. It was further resolved in the Conference of Chief Justices of the High Courts held in April, 2016, that in order to ensure expeditious disposal of cases pertaining to women, marginalized segments, senior citizens and differently-abled, steps be taken to (a) prioritize the disposal of cases falling in these categories within the existing court system; (b) an endeavour be made to revisit the cadre strength of subordinate courts and, where necessary, create additional courts to deal with such cases. Accordingly, Arrears Committees have been established in High Courts. The Supreme Court has also constituted an Arrears Committee consisting of two Hon'ble Judges to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.

The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

It may be mentioned that the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution. It has undertaken many steps towards achieving this objective. One of these steps is, strengthening of judicial infrastructure in districts through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary. Under this Scheme a total of Rs. 6009 crore has been released since 1993-94, out of which Rs. 2,565 crore (42.66%) has been released since April, 2014. 17,848 Court Halls and 14,085 Residential Accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on 30.11.2017. Out of this 2,429 Court Halls and 4,172 Residential Accommodations were constructed since 2014 to till date. In addition, 3,143 Court Halls and 1,682 Residential Accommodations are under construction. The Central Government has approved continuation of the aforesaid scheme beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period *i.e.* from 01.04.2017 to 31.03.2020 with an estimated outlay of Rs.3,320 crore.

Under the Phase-I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project undertaken by the Central Government from 2010 to 2015, against a total target of computerisation of 14249 courts, the computerisation of 13,672 district and subordinate courts was achieved. This includes the installation of hardware, the LAN and software. This has enabled the courts to upload the case status and orders online. Status of cases and copies of judgments have also been made available on the websites of the respective District and Subordinate Court Complexes which have been computerised.

In the Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project (July, 2015 upto 31 March 2019) an outlay of Rs.1,670 crores has been approved. The facilities of e-services such as cause lists, case status, daily orders, judgments *etc.* are being provided under the supervision of e-Committee of the Supreme Court and Computer Committees of respective High Courts. A total of 16,089 Courts have been computerised under the eCourts Project till date. Video Conferencing facility has also been operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding prisons during the period 2015-17. Development of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), developed under this project, provides updated information on civil and criminal cases, including pending cases, pertaining to the computerised district/subordinate courts in the country.

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