

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *127

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2018.

Cases Pending in Subordinate Courts

***127. SHRI G. HARI:**

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

- (a) whether it is true that over 22 lakh cases, which are over a decade old, are pending in various subordinate courts of the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is also true that the Government has been urging the chief justices of 24 high courts to fast track cases that are pending for more than ten years; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *127 FOR ANSWER ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2018.

As per National Judicial Data Grid, on 12th December, 2018, there are 2.91 crore cases pending in the district and subordinate courts, out of which 21.90 lakh cases are pending for more than 10 years. The State-wise details of cases pending for more than 10 years is given in the Annexure.

The Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases to improve access to justice in line with the mandate of the Preamble and Article 39A of the Constitution. The following interventions have been made by the Government during the last 4 years:

- 1) Pursuant to the decisions taken in the Joint Conference of the Chief Ministers of the States and Chief Justices of the High Courts in 2015, Arrears Committee has been established in the Supreme Court, all 24 High Courts and District Courts. The progress made by the High Courts and subordinate judiciary in reducing pendency was taken up for consideration again in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts held in April 2016, wherein it was resolved, inter alia, that all High Courts shall assign top most priority for disposal of cases which are pending for more than five years.
- 2) In April, 2015, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had written to all Chief Ministers of States drawing attention to the pending cases in courts and urging them to utilise the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% as recommended by the 14th Finance

Commission and accepted by the Government, to improve the working of the judicial system and provide speedy justice in the country.

- 3) In September, 2016, Minister of Law & Justice wrote to the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts to enhance the cadre strength of the district and subordinate judiciary and provide physical infrastructure to the State judiciary. The same was reiterated in May, 2017. In August, 2018, in the context of increasing pendency of cases, the Minister of Law & Justice has written to all Chief Justices of High Courts to monitor the status of the vacancies regularly and to ensure proper coordination with the state Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts as per time schedule prescribed by the Supreme Court in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

Besides taking up the concern of pendency of cases with the States and High Courts, the Government has simultaneously has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms established by the Government has adopted a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration through various strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases.

Annexure

Statement referred to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *127 for reply on 19th December, 2018.

State –wise details of cases pending for more than 10 years in district and subordinate courts.

S. No.	State	Number of cases pending in District and Subordinate Courts for more than 10 years.
1.	Uttar Pradesh	8,29,128
2.	Bihar	3,20,971
3.	Maharashtra	2,36,674
4.	West Bengal	2,36,294
5.	Gujarat	2,23,550
6.	Orissa	1,62,350
7.	Rajasthan	54,507
8.	Tamil Nadu	31,086
9.	Karnataka	30,114
10.	Madhya Pradesh	12,250
11.	Telangana	10,503
12.	Jharkhand	9,475
13.	Kerala	6,806
14.	Andhra Pradesh	4,094
15.	Delhi	3,668
16.	Uttarakhand	3,521
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,407
18.	Assam	2,982
19.	Tripura	2,222
20.	Goa	1,657
21.	Chhattisgarh	1,452
22.	Punjab	941
23.	Meghalaya	648
24.	Haryana	628
25.	Himachal Pradesh	565
26.	Manipur	272
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli at Silvassa	159
28.	Chandigarh	39
29.	Diu And Daman	26
30.	Mizoram	26

31.	Sikkim	2
32.	Andaman And Nicobar	0
Total		21,90,017
