

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1563
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018
PILs Pending in Courts

1563. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

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

(a) the number of cases and PILs pending in various high courts and Supreme Court in the country, court-wise;

(b) the number of cases in the High Courts and Supreme Court which have been pending for more than 10 years along with the maximum duration of cases pending, court-wise;

(c) the details regarding the number of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) filed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts in the country over the last three years, court-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has taken cognizance of filing of frivolous litigations under the guise of PIL and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to initiate action to check such frivolous litigations and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW & JUSTICE AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS
(SH. P.P.CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b) and (c) No separate data is maintained by the Supreme Court, High Courts and National Judicial Data Grid in respect of PILs. The information as available on the website of Supreme Court and National Judicial Data Grid in respect of pending cases including PILs is as under-

S.No.	Details	No. of Cases Pending (including PILs)	Number of cases pending for more than 10 years	Data as on
1.	Hon'ble Supreme Court	56994	-----	01.12.2018
2.	Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad	723415	276077	17.12.2018
3.	Hon'ble Calcutta High Court	242846	91496	
4.	Hon'ble Guwahati High Court	40399	350	
5.	Hon'ble Bombay High Court	464074	145425	
6.	Hon'ble Chhatisgarh High Court	63047	6622	
7.	Hon'ble Delhi High Court	73672	8019	
8.	Hon'ble Gujarat High Court	113302	13633	
9.	Hon'ble Himachal Pradesh High Court	36116	1359	
10.	Hon'ble Jammu & Kashmir High Court	91715	10520	
11.	Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court	87937	15326	
12.	Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	360262	46603	
13.	Hon'ble Karnataka High Court	235906	5907	
14.	Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh High Court	330075	63987	
15.	Hon'ble Manipur High	7697	1716	

	Court		
16.	Hon'ble Meghalaya High Court	1029	0
17.	Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court	393953	100714
18.	Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court	739500	119837
19.	Hon'ble Sikkim High Court	252	0
20.	Hon'ble Tripura High Court	2912	1
21.	Hon'ble Uttarakhand High Court	55463	22398
22.	Hon'ble Madras High Court	398121	101727
23.	Hon'ble Orissa High Court	169012	34813
24.	Hon'ble Patna High Court	151169	21628

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time through its various judgments has observed that the Court must be careful to see that the member of the public, who approaches the court through Public Interest Litigation is acting bona fide and not for personal gain or private profit or political motivation or other oblique consideration and that the court must not allow its process to be abused. Public-interest litigation is a rule of declared law by the courts of record. However, the person (or entity) filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition is being filed for the public interest and not as a frivolous litigation for pecuniary gain. The Supreme Court in the case of State of Uttaranchal vs. Balwant Singh Chauhal and others [CA No's. 1134-35/2002], issued certain directions in order to preserve the purity and sanctity of the PIL. Further Rule 12(3) of Order No. XXXVII of the Supreme Court Rules 2013 provides that 'The Court may impose exemplary costs on the petitioner (s) if it finds that the petition

was frivolous or instituted with oblique or mala fide motive or lacks bona fides.’
Since Hon’ble Supreme Court has been issuing guidelines from time to time to put
a check on these meaningless litigation, Government has no proposal to further
interfere in such matter.
