

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 26th December, 2018

Working Days in a Calendar Year

2362. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA:

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

- (a) the total working days of the Supreme Court and different High Courts in India in a calendar year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take any initiative for curtailment of existing vacation of the courts in India in the interest of speedy delivery of the Justice and to provide relief to the litigants and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any step for speedy trial by introducing radical changes in the court formalities and digitalization in every phase of court work; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): Working days/hours in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts in the country are regulated by rules framed by the respective Courts. The Government does not have under its consideration any proposal for curtailment of existing vacation of the courts in India.

The Supreme Court has notified the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 on 27.05.2014 wherein, inter-alia, it has been provided that the period of summer vacation shall not exceed seven weeks. It is further provided that the length of the summer vacation and the number of holidays for the Court and the offices of the Court shall be such as may be fixed by the Chief Justice and notified in the official Gazette so as not to exceed 103 days, excluding Sundays not falling in the vacation and during Court holidays. The Supreme Court Rules, 2013 came into force with effect from 19.08.2014.

(c) & (d): 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 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 Committee at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special types of cases.

The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-I was implemented during 2011 – 2015. At the end of Phase-I, out of the total target of computerisation of 14,249 district and subordinate courts, sites for all 14,249 courts (100%) were made ready for computerisation, out of which Local

Area Network (LAN) was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware was provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise was completed in all the High Courts. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of Linux Operating System and more than 4,000 court staff were trained as System Administrators in Case Information System (CIS). Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 488 court complexes and 342 corresponding jails.

The e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase-II is being implemented for a period of four years (2015-19) or until the project is completed, whichever is later. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores in the second phase, Rs.931.31 crores have been released to High Courts and Rs.616.45 crore have been utilised by the High Courts.

Computerisation of 16,845 district and subordinate courts has been completed, through provisioning of computer hardware, Local Area Network (LAN), and installation of standard application software in district and subordinate courts.

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