

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3613**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 02<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY, 2019.**

**Transparency in Judicial Process**

**†3613. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for making the judicial process transparent;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the progress made in this regard till date ?**

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) : Judicial process is within the domain of Judiciary. Regarding live streaming of Supreme Court proceedings of constitutional and national importance have an impact on the public at large, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, in Writ Petition (Civil) No.66 of 2018 – Indira Jai Singh *versus* Secretary General, Supreme Court & Others, has observed that (i) it is important to re-emphasise the significance of live-streaming as an extension of the principle of open justice and open courts; (ii)The process of live-streaming should be subjected to carefully structured guidelines, (iii) Initially, a pilot project may be conducted for about three months by live-streaming only cases of national and constitutional importance which can be expanded in due course with availability of infrastructure.

In Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 99 of 2015 (Pradyuman Bisht *versus* Union of India & others), Supreme Court of India, *inter-alia*, directed that CCTV cameras (without audio recording) may be installed inside the subordinate courts and at such important locations of the court complexes as may be considered appropriate in at least two districts of every State / Union Territory (with the exception of small States / Union Territories where it may be considered to be difficult to do so by the concerned High Courts). The Hon`ble Supreme Court further directed that it is desirable that CCTV cameras are installed in all subordinate courts in such phased manner as may be considered appropriate by the High

Courts. In pursuance of the above direction of the Hon'ble Court, a copy of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court was forwarded to Registrars General of all High Courts and Chief Secretaries / Administrators of all States / UTs by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 for taking action to install cameras in all Subordinate Courts. The respective High Courts are to decide and take action for installation CCTV cameras in the subordinate courts in their jurisdiction. It has been further directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the footage of the CCTV cameras will not be available under R.T.I. and will not be supplied to anyone without permission of the concerned High Court.

Further, the Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts, across the country in association with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The eCourts 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 LAN was installed at 13,643 courts, hardware was provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 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. During the Phase II, till date, 164.11 crore electronic transactions have been recorded for eCourts through eTaal portal. The eCourts transactions have thus emerged as one of the topmost accessed services of the Government of India.

\*\*\*\*\*

