

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2022**

PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS

†1650. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

- (a) the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts during the last three years and the current year, court-wise, category-wise and State-wise;**
- (b) the time since when these cases are pending;**
- (c) the reasons behind delay in disposing of these cases;**
- (d) the details of the action plan prepared in this regard; and**
- (e) the number of such cases disposed of during the said period, year-wise?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) & (b): The Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts do not maintain the last three years' data with respect to cases such as the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending year-wise, rather the data is maintained as on date.

As per the information obtained from Supreme Court of India, the total number of pending cases pertaining to the Constitutional Bench, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions,

Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases in Supreme Court is placed at *Annexure- I*.

In case of various High Courts, the information is not maintained centrally in the Department of Justice. However, the pertinent information as available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) regarding the pending cases pertaining to the Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions (not applicable in case of High Courts), Contempt of Court cases are placed at *Annexure-II*.

(c): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies within the domain of the judiciary. The Government has no direct role in this regard.

The delay in disposal is a multi-faceted problem. With an increase in the population of the country and awareness among the public about their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing by leaps and bounds, year after year. Each case is distinct and variable in nature, therefore, no specific timelines can be determined concerning disposal of cases. Myriad factors come into play in deciding the disposal of cases in courts which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

(d): As per the inputs obtained from the Supreme Court, multi-pronged endeavours are being launched to reduce pendency of cases in the near future. In the summer vacations, 2 division benches were constituted throughout and even old regular hearing matters were disposed off. Lately, special benches have been constituted to dispose of matters relating to Labour disputes, Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT)

Compensation, Direct taxes, Indirect taxes and old Criminal appeals. A special drive is presently on to dispose of all old bail matters and Transfer petitions, at the earliest.

While, the disposal of pending cases in courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary, the Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary by adopting to the practical realities in the society and localising and simplifying the litigant centric justice delivery system in their jurisdiction. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts, including computerization, an increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(e): As per the information obtained from the Supreme Court of India, the number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases disposed cases for last three years and current year are placed at ***Annexure-III***.

In case of the various High Courts, the information is not maintained centrally. The number of constitutional Civil, Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions, Contempt of Court cases pending in the High Courts are only maintained as on date as per National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). The details

regarding the disposed cases pertaining to the Labour, Election, Writ Petitions, Public Interest Litigations, Special Leave Petitions (not applicable in case of High Courts), Contempt of Court cases are placed at ***Annexure-IV***.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022
REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'**

Details of Cases pending in the Supreme Court of India across various categories

S.no.	Case Type	No. of Pending Cases in Supreme Court (as on 13.12.2022)
1.	Constitutional Bench	498
2.	Labour	1667
3.	Election	487
4.	Writ Petitions	2209
5.	Public Interest Litigation (PIL)	2870
6.	Special Leave Petitions (SLP)	4331
7.	Contempt of Court Cases	1295

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Pending in various High Courts across various categories as per NJDG.

S. No.	Name of High Court	Case Type and Number of Cases Pending (as on 14.12.2022)					
		Constitutional Civil	Labour	Election	Writ Petitions	Public Interest Litigation	Contempt of Court (as per Contempt of Courts Act)
1	Allahabad High Court	Not available as per NJDG	-	39	377455	4805	-
2	High Court Of Rajasthan		-	7	170132	-	2052
3	High Court for State of Telangana		-	39	144038	589	6236
4	High Court of Madhya Pradesh		-	19	126470	-	-
5	Bombay High Court		-	128	117624	1922	-
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana		-	3	98165	157	-
7	High Court of Karnataka		-	14	79734	-	-
8	Calcutta High Court		-	22	76864	549	550
9	Orissa High Court		-	26	73322	-	1454
10	Patna High Court		-	37	70270	-	6554
11	Madras High Court		-	18	69005	-	-
12	High Court of Kerala		153	5	67572	-	-
13	High Court Of Chhattisgarh		1087	2	35228	307	-
14	High Court of Delhi		-	457	32419	-	-
15	Gauhati High Court		-	7	24906	216	-
16	High Court of Jharkhand		-	6	24077	-	-
17	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir		-	7	18098	164	275
18	High Court of Himachal Pradesh		-	4	16800	163	-
19	High Court of Uttarakhand		-	6	15737	567	-
20	High Court of Manipur		-	68	2357	57	-
21	High Court of Tripura		-	-	746	13	-
22	High Court of Meghalaya		-	-	632	17	-
23	High Court of Gujarat		-	22	533	533	-
24	High Court of Andhra Pradesh		-	23	110	-	11348
25	High Court of Sikkim		-	-	77	4	-
	GRAND TOTAL		1240	959	1642371	10063	28469

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Disposed in the Supreme Court of India across various categories

S.no.	Case Type	No. of Disposed Cases in Supreme Court			
		2019	2020	2021	2022 (upto 13.12.2022)
1	Constitutional Bench	50	130	8	10
2	Labour	1163	490	641	1024
3	Election	344	209	301	286
4	Writ Petitions	1452	1146	1326	1316
5	Public Interest Litigation (PIL)	836	756	532	974
6	Special Leave Petitions (SLP)	26318	12122	16675	29866
7	Contempt of Court Cases	911	298	484	1590

Annexure – IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (E) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1650 FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2022 REGARDING 'PETITIONS AND CONTEMPT CASES IN COURTS'

Details of Cases Disposed in various High Courts across various categories as per NJDG.

S. No	Name of High Court	Case Type and Number of Cases Disposed (as on 14.12.2022)					
		Constitutional Civil	Labour	Election	Writ Petitions	Public Interest Litigation	Contempt of Court (as per Contempt of Courts Act)
1	Allahabad High Court	Not available as per NJDG	-	239	2415843	24790	-
2	High Court Of Rajasthan		-	85	599158	-	772
3	High Court for State of Telangana		-	102	800078	2377	4218
4	High Court of Madhya Pradesh		-	558	774970	-	-
5	Bombay High Court		-	866	576953	6784	-
6	High Court of Punjab and Haryana		-	24	582434	726	-
7	High Court of Karnataka		-	146	589093	-	-
8	Calcutta High Court		-	46	794012	489	378
9	Orissa High Court		-	65	597347	-	3759
10	Patna High Court		-	236	531285	-	1267
11	Madras High Court		-	109	799562	-	-
12	High Court of Kerala		220	82	903411	-	-
13	High Court Of Chhattisgarh		2297	64	179887	1121	-
14	High Court of Delhi		-	6235	251748	-	-
15	Gauhati High Court		-	109	179799	1810	-
16	High Court of Jharkhand		-	72	154712	-	-
17	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir		-	40	147943	789	95
18	High Court of Himachal Pradesh		-	108	119793	934	-
19	High Court of		-	31	146402	2177	-

	Uttarakhand						
20	High Court of Manipur		-	29	27194	602	-
21	High Court of Tripura		-	-	12887	157	-
22	High Court of Meghalaya		-	3	5169	113	-
23	High Court of Gujarat		-	152	2372	2372	-
24	High Court of Andhra Pradesh		-	50	7	-	-
25	High Court of Sikkim		-	-	674	108	-
	GRAND TOTAL		2517	9451	11192733	45349	10489