

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1817**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**MODERNISATION OF DISTRICT COURTS**

**1817. SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP:**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor situation of the litigants including women lawyers, attending witnesses and public and even the dismal standard of court rooms of judges which requires immediate attention especially in the District Courts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to modernize the District Courts and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a): While the Government of India is committed to the needs of providing good physical infrastructure to the lower and subordinate judiciary to facilitate better justice delivery, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide for Judicial Infrastructure in order to supplement the resources of the State Government including the UTs. In district and subordinate courts. The Union Government has been administering a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary. The scheme has been under implementation since 1993-94. It covers construction of Court Halls, Residential Units, Lawyers' Halls, Toilet Complexes and Digital Computer

Rooms. As on date, Rs. 9445.15 crores have been sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs. 6001.15 crores (63.53%) have been sanctioned to the States and UTs since April, 2014. 21,159 court halls and 18,557 residential accommodations have been made available for Judicial Officers of the District and Subordinate Courts under this scheme as on date against the working strength of 19,235 Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts in the country. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction in various States. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned Rs. 1479.33 crores have been sanctioned since the inception of the Scheme in 1993-94. 2,748 court halls and 2,333 residential units are available and 289 court halls and 251 residential units are under construction.

(b): Towards enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts, following initiatives have been taken under eCourts project by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice:

- i. A total of 18,735 District and Subordinate courts have been digitised under the eCourts Project Phase II so far.
- ii. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2973 courts sites have been commissioned with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e-Court services is based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.

- iv. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed to help in smart scheduling of cases.
- v. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 21.74 crore cases and more than 19.80 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized (as on 01.12.2022). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.
- vi. As part of eCourts project, 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/Litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 1.50 Cr. downloads till 31stOctober 2022) and JustIS app for judges (17,709 downloads till 31stNovember 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- vii. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.30 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts

and in more than 31 lakhs cases online fine of more than Rs. 337 crore has been realised till 01.12.2022.

- viii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 2,97,435 hearings (till 03.09.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (75,80,347 cases and Subordinate Courts (1,65,20,791 cases) have conducted 2.41 crore virtual hearings till 31.10.2022. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.
- ix. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption.
- x. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund of India. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.10.2022.
- xi. Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up eSewaKendras. As on 28.02.2022, 619eSewa Kendra's have been made functional in District Courts under 25 High Courts.

- xii. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 28 States/ UTs.
- xiii. A new “Judgment Search” portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.
- xiv. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public, 38 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 24 High Courts.
- xv. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “skill divide”, a manual on eFiling and a Brochure on “How to register for eFiling” has been made available in English, Hindi and 12 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the eCourt services with video tutorials on eFiling. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes have covered nearly 5,13,080 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts and Advocates.