

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9th DECEMBER, 2022

Family Courts

596. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN

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

- (a) the details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of cases filed, disposed off and pending in these courts during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether any problems have been faced by the States in the disposal of the cases filed in family courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for expediting the disposal of such cases in the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a)&(b): The details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise and cases filed, disposed off and pending during the last three years and the current year are given at **Annexure**.

(c) to (e): Setting up of family courts and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. Under Section 3(1) (a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the family courts may be set up if the State Governments deem it necessary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors 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. 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. 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 co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, 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. Major initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9291.79 crores has been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,159 as on 30.11.2022 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,557 as on 30.11.2022 under this scheme. In addition, 2,673 court halls and 1,662 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crore, out of which central share will be Rs. 5,307 crore. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 01.12.2022, litigants can access case status of over 21.74 crore cases and 19.80 crore order/judgments pertaining to these courts. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service

Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull

services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 619 e-SewaKendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,65,20,791 cases while the High Court heard 75,80,347 cases (totalling 2.41 crore) till 31.10.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court had 2,97,435 hearings since the lockdown period upto 03.09.2022.

(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2022, 46 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 853 new Judges were appointed and 621 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1108 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
05.12.2022	24,994	19,205

(iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:

In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

For Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 596 to be replied on 09.12.2022 Status of Family Courts

S.NO.	STATES/UTs	FUNCTIONAL COURT (as on 31st Oct 2022)	CASES FILED				CASES DISPOSED				CASES PENDING			
			2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)	2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)	2019	2020	2021	2022 (up to Oct)
1	Andhra Pr	20	7421	3343	5635	5635	4827	2286	1632	3304	6763	10069	10069	12946
2	A&N island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pr.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	5574	2732	3935	5141	7364	1574	4103	6092	8108	10108	9356	7901
5	Bihar	39	24377	11969	19382	20166	15336	5729	7795	18575	20774	58636	69792	71383
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	25	15069	5346	11525	12703	9236	3737	9527	11890	6882	15310	17779	18978
8	D&N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	0	37978	19256	21382	22664	17638	5691	30166	21014	4210	40733	48520	0
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	30	27529	14041	18508	20446	13754	8918	22124	19947	0	33560	35335	35834
13	Haryana	31	59033	29646	33315	39860	14909	18187	31589	41171	924	58511	65337	62950
14	Himachal Pr	3	14745	7324	2706	5679	5570	7331	3096	4706	0	15618	5102	6092
15	J&K	0	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	876	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	30	12052	6215	9380	10953	6836	3537	5873	13668	4632	14507	19371	15975
17	Karnataka	39	25114	16618	21684	23582	11645	8988	22603	23072	0	38365	39458	39958
18	Kerala	28	60338	43022	50975	54866	25309	23067	47146	53286	0	100479	114020	115514
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pr	0	37948	15950	18758	9386	15596	9922	18140	10162	0	15584	25769	0
22	Maharashtra	40	29993	19554	29321	32768	65302	11774	26789	32811	107491	52079	67315	67272
23	Manipur	0	887	342	441	557	466	311	251	930	210	634	634	0
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	146	0	0	0	154	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	2	147	82	185	220	41	88	150	185	0	66	153	200
27	Odisha	30	13345	8038	10874	12056	4754	4159	8980	15823	0	39670	44689	40933
28	Puducherry	2	751	668	873	1040	471	374	835	1114	0	1535	1452	1269
29	Punjab	33	70374	23630	61023	59388	10249	14811	40297	60415	0	52198	85061	82413
30	Rajasthan	50	39935	21518	30168	39736	16941	15731	27187	36224	0	44222	46048	50054
31	Sikkim	4	277	179	240	303	173	128	286	358	6	188	195	161
32	Tamil Nadu	40	21660	16316	21774	21355	14478	8840	13468	22980	6036	29970	32519	31458
33	Telangana	23	9252	5733	10820	11592	9857	3451	11622	10358	9950	15469	18095	18779
34	Tripura	9	2893	1512	2762	3393	1801	1026	2717	3142	937	2551	3604	3863
35	Uttar Pradesh	189	305487	190709	170634	191001	266775	112214	183793	193854	405127	413176	396462	392734
36	Uttarakhand	18	11238	9508	10749	11147	4379	3588	11319	12022	567	15119	15997	15122
37	West Bengal	2	721	298	165	272	8484	229	118	301	49723	0	1166	1128
	TOTAL	694	834138	473549	497447	615909	552384	275691	531606	617404	633370	1078357	1173298	1092917

