

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1475  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**Justice through Digital System in Courts**

**†1475. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:  
SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:**

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

- (a) the details of benefits accrued/likely to accrue to the common man in getting timely justice through digital system/technique; and
- (b) the courts in the country including Madhya Pradesh where Additional Solicitor General of India are proposed to be appointed along with the functions they have to perform?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** The eCourts project is being implemented under the joint partnership of Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India and eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the project is under implementation since 2007 for ICT development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. Its vision is to transform the judicial system of the country by ICT enablement of courts and to enhance the judicial productivity, both qualitatively & quantitatively,

making the justice delivery system accessible, cost effective, reliable, transparent and provide the common man with timely justice, using the digital system/technique.

The Phase-I (2011-2015) implementation started with a total expenditure of Rs. 639.41 crore. Phase I focused on the nuts and bolts of digitisation - setting up hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, digitising case records, and operationalising the e-Courts platform.

The Phase II of the project started in 2015 with an outlay of Rs. 1670 crores focused on ICT facilitation of judicial services to citizens. Total 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerized till this phase. Phase II focused on providing citizen centric services to litigants and lawyers, including development of an end-to end digitisation system (such as Case Information System), portals that enable people to access information about pendency of cases (National Judicial Data Grid) and systems for digital filing and payments (e-filing and e-payments), which revolutionised the way public accessed the services provided by the judiciary.

In the eCourts Project the Government has taken the following initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all:-

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2976 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. 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 22.09 crore cases and more than 20.43 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.02.2023).

- iii. 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 1.59 cr. downloads till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022).
- iv. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.40 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 32 lakhs (32,62,303) cases online fine of more than Rs. 347.86 crore has been realized till 02.01.2023.
- v. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 3,79,954 hearings (till 24.12.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (77,01,697 cases) and Subordinate Courts (1,82,20,040 cases) have conducted 2.59 crore virtual hearings till 31.12.2022.
- vi. 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. A total of 19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.12.2022.
- vii. 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. A total of 20 High Courts have implemented

e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 22 High Courts till 31.12.2022.

- viii. To bridge the digital divide, 689 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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.
- xi. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 39 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 25 High Courts.
- xii. 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 11 regional languages for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court 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.

**(b):** As per the current position there are 11 posts of Additional Solicitor General before the Supreme Court of India. Also, there are 12 posts of Additional Solicitor General for the various High Courts in the country. For the rest of the High Courts including High Court of Madhya Pradesh, creation of 13 additional posts of Additional Solicitor General is under the consideration of the Government.

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