

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4070

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 24th MARCH 2023

FAST TRACK COURTS

†4070. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fast track courts set up in the different parts of the country and the corpus of funds allocated for their functioning during the last three years, State and district-wise;
- (b) whether a large number of cases are still pending despite setting up of various fast track courts and rural courts in various States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of pending cases disposed of by these fast track courts and the rural courts since their inception;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up more courts and appoint more judges in the existing courts in order to dispose of the pending cases as soon as possible;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the disposal of pending cases within a time limit?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (e): Establishment of subordinate courts including fast track courts (FTC) and rural courts for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts. The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 843 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.1.2023. The details of FTCs functional, cases disposed and pending in these courts for last three years including current year (January, 2023) are given at **Annexure**.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape

and POCSO Act since October 2019. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year spread over two Financial Years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The total cost of the project was Rs.767.25 Cr. with Rs.474 Cr. as Central Share to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Third Party Evaluation of the scheme was undertaken by the National Productivity Council which recommended for continuation of the scheme for 2 years. The Cabinet has approved continuation of the scheme up to 31st March 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 Cr. including Rs.971.70 Cr. as Central Share. As per information made available by High Courts 764 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 28 States/UTs which have disposed more than 1,44,000 cases while 1,98,563 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st January 2023. 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. In 21 States/UTs FTSCs are fully functional, in 7 States FTSCs are partially operational while 3 States/UTs i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and A&N Island are yet to join the Scheme. An amount of Rs.633.7 Cr. have been released to the States/UTs since inception of the scheme up to 31.03.2023.

(f): Disposal of cases lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. However, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide suitable environment for timely disposal of cases by the judiciary, which areas follows:

- i.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would provide infrastructure aimed to ease the work of

lawyers and litigants and aid justice delivery. As on date, Rs. 9755.51 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,271 as on 28.02.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,734 as on 28.02.2023, under this scheme.

- ii.** Further, under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, information and communication technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerized district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 689 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. 21 virtual courts have been set up in 17 States/UTs. As on 31.01.2023, these courts have handled more than 2.53 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 359 crores in fines. E-courts Phase III is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.
- iii.** Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 07.03.2023, 54 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 887 new Judges were appointed and 646 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 1114 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
20.03.2023	25,189	19,522

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and high courts concerned.

- iv. In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.
- v. Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the government has established Fast Track Courts for dealing with cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.01.2023, 843 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women, and children etc. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs.
- vi. With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

- vii.** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted wholeheartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- viii.** LokAdalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed off in LokAdalats during the last three years are as under: -

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (till Feb)	1,75,98,095	30,25,724	2,06,23,819
Total	5,58,19,604	1,95,18,262	7,53,37,866

- ix.** The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the

Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

***Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data**

Till 28th Feb, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender Wise				
Female	11,46,046	33.43	11,23,504	33.49
Male	22,82,642	66.57	22,31,041	66.51
Caste Category Wise				
General	7,31,346	21.33	7,12,646	21.24
OBC	10,08,050	29.40	9,83,336	29.31
SC	10,86,611	31.69	10,66,037	31.78
ST	6,02,681	17.58	5,92,526	17.66
Total	34,28,688		33,54,545	

- x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 21 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Laws Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Annexure**Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question Number 4070 for 24/3/2023**

Details of FTCs functional, cases disposed of and cases pending for last three years including current year

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			January, 2023		
		FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st January)	Cases Disposed during the month	Cases pending (as on 31 st January)
1	Andhra Pr	21	1177	10069	21	312	10069	22	1446	6855	22	111	7446
2	A&NIsland	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
4	Assam	14	2615	10108	16	3780	9356	16	7413	10750	18	540	11049
5	Bihar	33	1759	58636	0	1603	69792	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh		0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23	2877	15310	23	5324	17779	23	4158	5330	23	262	5349
8	D&N Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	5	393	40733	7	223	48520	10	1019	4057	10	75	4084
10	Diu & Daman	0	0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	130	0	0	59974	0	4	7114	2215	4	940	2288
12	Gujarat	0	462	33560	35	37102	35335	54	3784	6791	51	464	6730
13	Haryana	5	825	58511	6	899	65337	6	433	873	6	42	668
14	Himachal Pr	0	0	15618	0	5	5102	3	313	497	3	12	495
15	J&K	1	27	0	4	391	0	4	54	686	4	2	691
16	Jharkhand	40	624	14507	6	861	19371	34	2417	7836	34	268	7813
17	Karnataka	13	210	38365	18	2051	39458	0	1257	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	23	217	100479	28	2333	114020	0	1650	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	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
21	Madhya Pr	2	1	15584	0	0	25769	1	59	193	0	0	0
22	Maharashtra	116	63470	52079	110	114254	67315	111	118311	158149	111	8506	162135
23	Manipur	6	45	634	6	73081	634	6	316	360	6	16	351
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	2	179	0	2	1758	0	2	221	223	2	8	230
26	Nagaland	1	3	66	0	3	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	0	0	39670	19	234	44689	0	304	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	1535	0	0	1452	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	7	85	52198	7	471	85061	7	248	255	7	31	251
30	Rajasthan	0	0	44222	0	32	46048	0	0	0	0	0	0

Contd.....

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			January, 2023		
		FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st January)	Cases Disposed during the month	Cases pending (as on 31 st January)
31	Sikkim	2	5	188	2	5	195	2	20	14	2	1	14
32	Tamil Nadu	73	9389	29970	74	7865	32519	73	24993	107346	73	1363	107788
33	Telangana	29	1525	15469	35	2849	18095	0	2645	0	0	0	0
34	Tripura	11	100	2551	11	347	3604	3	386	1393	3	15	1382
35	UP	389	148466	413176	376	86013	396462	372	333049	1086490	372	36578	1115130
36	Uttarakhand	4	170	15119	4	215	15997	7	554	1532	4	40	932
37	WB	87	5202	0	88	3172	1166	88	21065	72824	88	1900	74016
	Total	907	239956	1078357	898	405168	1173298	848	533229	1474669	843	51174	1508842