

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †411
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

EXPENSES ON PENDING CASES

†411. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

- (a) the number of cases pending for more than 20 years in the courts across the country and the reasons for such long pendency of court cases; and**
- (b) whether any study regarding expenses on long pending court cases has been conducted and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The number of cases pending for more than 20 years in the Supreme Court of India, as per the data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) as on 27.01.2023 is 208 cases. In case of the High Courts there are 2,94,547 cases and 6,71,543 cases in the District and Subordinate Courts that are pending for more than 20 years as per data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 01.02.2023.

Further, so far as the reasons for such long pendency of court cases is concerned, the Supreme Court has stated that there is no conspicuous reason which can be depicted for long pendency of cases. Pendency of court cases is a multi-faceted problem. Due to the increase in the population of the country and awareness of their rights amongst the public, filing of fresh cases is also increasing with leaps and bounds year after year. There

are several reasons for large pendency of cases in the courts which, inter-alia, include paucity of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing, 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. In case of pendency of criminal cases, the Criminal Justice System functions on assistance by various agencies viz. Police, Prosecution, Forensic Labs, Handwriting Experts and Medico-Legal Experts. Delay in providing assistance by allied agencies also entails delay in disposal of cases.

(b): The disposal of pending cases in courts lies exclusively within the domain of the judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. Therefore, no such study regarding expenses on long pending cases has been conducted.
