

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 445  
ANSWERED ON 03/02/2023**

**CASES PENDING IN COURTS**

**445. MS. CHANDRANI MURMU:  
SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:  
SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:  
SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:  
SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:  
SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether a number of cases including civil and criminal are pending in SC, HCs and Lower Courts with some dating back to 1970s, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, court/case and State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether pendency of cases in the said courts have exponentially increased during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, court and State-wise;**
- (c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up special courts/Tribunals and amend the Civil Procedure Act, 1908 to ensure speedy disposal of matters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the details of measures taken/to be taken to reduce the pendency of cases and to ensure faster and timely disposal of cases across different levels of judiciary functioning with optimum capacity and the progress made in this respect?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

**(a):** As per data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), there are no pending cases in Supreme Court of India for more than 42 years. In

case of the High Courts and the District and Subordinate Courts, there are 3642 and 2979 pending cases respectively, dating back to period 1970-79 as per the data available on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) on 01.02.2023. The detailed statement, showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in concerned High Courts and State/UT is at ***Annexure-I & II*** respectively.

**(b):** On an average, based on the data available with the Department, it is stated that the pendency of cases in the various courts of the country have increased in the last three years i.e. 2020, 2021 and 2022. The detailed statement, as provided by the Supreme Court of India, showing the pendency of cases during the last three years in the Supreme Court, various High Courts and State-wise District & Subordinate Courts is at ***Annexure-III, IV and V***.

**(c):** In so far as the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is concerned, consistent efforts are being made to list maximum number of cases as far as possible. During the COVID-19 pandemic hearing of cases was done through video conferencing mode. The Supreme Court had 3,79,954 hearing through video conferencing since the lockdown upto 24.12.2022. In furtherance of reducing pendency, it was directed to list 10 Transfer Petitions and 10 Bail Matters before each Hon'ble Court on all the five days of the week. Besides this in order to accelerate the listing of fresh as well as other miscellaneous matter, Tuesday of the week has also been fixed for listing such matters. In order to clear the backlog of pending fresh cases, miscellaneous weeks are being declared from time to time so that maximum number of cases can be listed. Special Benches have also been constituted to dispose of old cases relating to Compensation, Direct & Indirect taxes, service and Criminal Cases. On Regular hearing days, old regular hearing matters are being listed before these courts. Multi-pronged endeavors are being launched to reduce pendency of cases in the near future. Similarly, efforts are on in the High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts to reduce pendency at their levels.

**(d):** In order to reduce pendency and ensure speedy disposal of matters, 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.

In order to strengthen the judicial system in States, Fast Track Courts have been established for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc. As on 31.12.2022, 848 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 (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, the central government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme Rs. 186.93 crore has been released during current FY upto December, 2022. 768 FTSC are functional including 418 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed more than 1,37,000 cases as on 31.12.2022.

**(e)** 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEXURE-I****Detailed Statement showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in various High Courts**

S.No	Name of the High Court	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Total
1	Allahabad	1	4	2	5	6	11	44	110	212	345	740
2	Rajasthan											0
3	Bombay	2		1	1		5	2			1	12
4	Madras	2	5	7	7	7	7	1	2	11	17	66
5	Punjab and Haryana											0
6	Madhya Pradesh			2								2
7	Karnataka											0
8	Telangana							1	3	3	8	15
9	Andhra Pradesh							1		2	7	10
10	Patna	1	3	3	9	13	37	57	30	149	92	394
11	Calcutta	108	151	124	249	220	222	288	343	313	382	2400
12	Kerala				1						1	2
13	Gujarat											0
14	Orissa											0
15	Delhi											0
16	Chhattisgarh											0
17	Himachal Pradesh											0
18	Jharkhand											0
19	Gauhati											0
20	Uttarakhand											0
21	Jammu and Kashmir										1	1
22	Manipur											0
23	Tripura											0
24	Meghalaya											0
25	Sikkim											0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>3642</b>

Source:-National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

**ANNEXURE-II**

**Detailed Statement showing year-wise number of pending cases since 1970s (1970-1979) in District and Subordinate Courts of various States/UTs**

Sl.No	States/Uts	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh											0
2	Andman&Nicobar											0
3	Assam								1		1	2
4	Auranchal Pradesh											0
5	Bihar	20	28	22	36	55	26	39	38	73	80	417
6	Chandigarh											0
7	Chattisgarh									1	2	3
8	Delhi			1	1	2		1				5
9	Diu and Daman											0
10	Goa	1	1	1	2	2		4	2	5	4	22
11	Gujarat			1			1	1				3
12	Haryana										1	1
13	Himachal pradesh											0
14	Jammu& Kashmir				1	1						2
15	Jharkhand	1	2	5	1	2	1	1	1	6	3	23
16	Karnataka						2			3	1	6
17	Kerala				1		1	1			3	6
18	Madhya Pradesh	5	1							1	2	9
19	Maharshtra		11	10	18	13	15	16	17	27	28	155
20	Manipur											0
21	Meghalya								1	1	1	3
22	Mizoram											0
23	Nagaland											0
24	Orissa		2		1		2	2	1	5	2	15
25	Puducherry											0
26	Punjab											0
27	Rajasthan	2	4	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	4	29
28	Sikkim											0
29	Silvasa											0
30	Tamil Nadu			1		2		1	2	4	2	12
31	Telangana									1	1	2
32	Tripura											0
33	U.T of lakshadweep											0
34	Uttar Pradesh	80	98	131	134	147	171	205	267	340	390	1963
35	Uttrakhand											0
36	West Bengal	19	11	15	23	20	34	35	37	50	57	301
<b>Total</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>2979</b>

Source:- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

***ANNEXURE-III***

**Pendency of cases during the last three years in the Supreme Court**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Pending Cases in Supreme Court</b>
2020	65086
2021	70239
2022	69768

Source:- Supreme Court of India

**ANNEXURE-IV****Pendency of cases during the last three years in various High Courts**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the High Court</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022 (till 30.09.2022)</b>
1	Allahabad	993031	1031587	1030538
2	Andhra Pradesh	205556	223783	240569
3	Telangana	223064	240029	236549
4	Bombay	325332	353143	371787
5	Calcutta	237363	234909	223636
6	Chhattisgarh	75836	81001	88089
7	Delhi	91279	101685	106110
8	Gujarat	143167	155006	159711
9	Gauhati	40998	44356	46624
10	Meghalaya	1064	1201	89689
11	Manipur	2849	3218	47323
12	Tripura	2343	1736	86291
13	Himachal Pradesh	74158	82354	258493
14	Jammu & Kashmir	59162	48318	237641
15	Jharkhand	88435	88364	420758
16	Karnataka	249733	246413	241448
17	Kerala	212515	226494	3121
18	Madhya Pradesh	383784	408527	908
19	Madras	269417	259980	170187
20	Orissa	172900	196483	212203
21	Patna	179462	226071	444370
22	Punjab & Haryana	378856	451985	590071
23	Rajasthan	518499	560062	164
24	Sikkim	239	179	1695
25	Uttarakhand	37923	40963	43309
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4966965</b>	<b>5307847</b>	<b>5351284</b>

Source:- Supreme Court of India



**ANNEXURE-V****State-wise Pendency of cases during the last three years in District & Subordinate Courts**

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	2019	2020	2021	2022 (till 30.09.2022)
1	Uttar Pradesh	7807863	8781104	9966606	10641073
2	Andhra Pradesh	567096	649157	785379	827790
3	Telangana	580193	691646	790360	822658
4	Maharashtra	3821487	4504573	4800895	4919254
5	Goa	49049	58967	59414	56082
6	Diu and Daman & Silvassa	5344	6281	6523	2857
7	Silvassa				3784
8	West Bengal	2048697	2170788	2384020	2481419
9	Andaman & Nicobar	9795	9839	9321	9163
10	Chhatisgarh	285025	331849	381984	403266
11	Delhi	882366	1018642	1231373	1440149
12	Gujrat	1595813	1917992	1952262	1808627
13	Assam	301427	360753	415024	478356
14	Nagaland	3361	4206	4569	4605
15	Meghalaya	13673	15830	16010	5843
16	Manipur	6516	6957	8183	16029
17	Tripura	27491	44654	43096	504912
18	Mizoram	6589	6338	6304	258228
19	Arunachal Pradesh	10658	12651	14318	499687
20	Himachal Pradesh	293706	420891	464892	1878045
21	Jammu & Kashmir	172769	198771	216245	1992343
22	Jharkhand	365642	427130	490905	539
23	Karnataka	1531008	1709220	1780802	1957175
24	Kerala	1614277	2089289	2089147	7654
25	U.T. Of Lakshadweep	397	453	470	15576
26	Madhya Pradesh	1455435	1727293	1920613	1383865
27	Tamil Nadu	1137684	1263758	1331944	32216
28	Puducherry	30094	33470	32998	1846520
29	Orissa	1433522	1592250	1789677	3434130
30	Bihar	2714344	3016743	3276696	952777
31	Punjab	642327	843791	945609	1445775
32	Haryana	853375	1101330	1313881	88805
33	Chandigarh	62955	70633	72384	2248201
34	Rajasthan	1769823	1947688	2162774	1645
35	Sikkim	1142	1455	1616	38986
36	Uttarkhand	195281	249350	287204	318743
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32296224</b>	<b>37285742</b>	<b>41053498</b>	<b>42826777</b>

Source:- Supreme Court of India.