

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4886  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**Citizen Centric Services through e-Courts**

**4886. DR.T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:**

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

- (a) the details of the total outlay in Phase I &Phase II of the e-Courts Project and amount released and utilized since 2015, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of benefits accrued to the common man in getting timely justice and greater access through e-Courts in the previous two phases; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken to provide efficient and time bound access of citizen centric services of courts to litigants having no access to internet and facing digital divide?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a): With the objective of universal computerisation of all the district & subordinate court complexes, Department of Justice in close coordination with eCommittee of Supreme Court of India is implementing e-Courts Mission Mode Project. Total outlay of e-Courts Phase-I (2011-15) was of Rs.935crore while the Government incurred an expenditure of Rs.639.41crore. e-Courts Phase- II of the project started in 2015with an outlay of Rs.1,670crore and the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1,668.42 crore till 28.03.2022 to various implementing agencies involved in the implementation of the project. Details are as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Funds released (as on 31.03.2022)</b>
1.	High Courts	Rs 1,164.37 Cr.
2.	NIC	Rs. 77.46 Cr.
3.	NICSI	Rs. 103.10 Cr.
4.	BSNL	Rs 293.68 Cr.
5.	eCommittee, SCI	Rs 13.50 Cr.
6.	Other Miscellaneous Expenditure (Salary, publicity etc.)	Rs 16.31 Cr.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 1,668.42 Cr.</b>

(b): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the e-Courts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. 18,735 District & Subordinate courts have been computerised till phase II. Following are the initiatives taken during Phase-I & Phase-II of e-Courts Project resulting in timely and greater access to justice.

- 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. With internet connectivity, judicial services are now easily accessible to the common man.
- 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 22.38 crore cases and more than 20.83 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.03.2023). This provides greater transparency in

the judicial system by making information on court cases available to the public through portals.

- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts. This tool helps in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list.
- iv. 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 1.70 cr. downloads till 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023) and JustIS app for judges (18,407 downloads till 31st December 2022). This helps to manage cases more effectively reducing delay and improving the overall speed of the judicial process.
- v. The India emerged as a global leader in Video Conferencing. The High Courts (78,29,283 cases and Subordinate Courts 1,87,71,384 cases) have conducted 2.63 crore virtual hearings till 28.02.2023. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,02,937 hearings through video conferencing till 31.01.2023. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 courtrooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. This enables litigants, lawyers, and all stakeholders to attend proceedings without

physical presence in courts. Thus, reducing costs associated with court proceedings, such as travel expenses for witnesses, judges, and attorneys.

- vi. 21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 2.74 crore cases have been handled by 21 virtual courts and in more than 35 lakhs (35,20,799) cases online fine of more than Rs. 380 crores have been realized till 28.02.2023. These courts have enabled litigants to pay their fines or contest to the claims online (24X7). Thus, saving time and resources for both the court system and the litigants.
- vii. 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 28.02.2023. It helps user by eliminating the need for physical visits to government agencies or courts, reducing the time and effort required to file documents. It reduces the risk of errors and inaccuracies in the filing process, as documents are automatically checked for completeness and correctness.
- viii. 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 21 High Courts till 28.02.2023. It helps litigants by eliminating the need to visit courts and reducing the time and effort required to make a payment
- ix. 714 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. Citizens who do

not have access to technology can access the judicial services from eSewa Kendras, thus bridging the digital divide.

- x. 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. It provides real time status update of service of summons besides tracking of geographical coordinates of the process server at the time of serving. Thereby increasing transparency and speed of delivery process.
- xi. 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 helps the users with easy accessibility of judgements based on a given keyword or combination of keywords
- 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.

(c): Government of India has released fund sunder e-Courts Phase-II to establish eSewa Kendr as to bridge the digital divide. The eSewa Kendras are set up at the entry point of the court complexes with the intention of

facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and e-filing. e-Sewa Kendras have been established at each High Court and one District and Subordinate Court Complex in each district while all Court Complexes are covered in North-Eastern States. As on 28.03.2023, 714 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Rs. 12.12 crores have been allocated for creating 1732 Help Desk counters for e-Filing in Court Complexes. Judicial Service Centres have been established at all computerized courts to serve as a single window for filing petitions and applications by litigants / lawyers and for disseminating judicial information related to cause lists and other case related information to the lawyers and litigants through Info Kiosks. Mobile e-courts van equipped with Wi-Fi and computers for video conferencing for speedy disposal of cases have also been started in Uttarakhand and Telangana. In addition, Department of Justice has signed MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited on 02.09.2022 to provide designated services through more than 4 lakh CSCs situated across India thus further bridging the digital divide.

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