

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1507

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 28th JULY, 2023

Development of Infrastructure in Higher Judiciary

1507. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the state of judicial infrastructure of higher judiciary in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the schemes or programmes introduced to ensure equitable development of judicial infrastructure of higher judiciary throughout the country;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and spent for this purpose during the last five years;
- (d) the details of allocation of funds and expenditure under the schemes and programmes launched for improving the access to justice and for the introduction of e-Courts throughout the country during the said period; and
- (e) the details of deadlines met and milestones achieved thereunder?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CULTURE

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) : Article 214 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a High Court for each State. Accordingly, every State is entitled to have its own High Court. However, the States are required to create and provide all the necessary infrastructure facilities such as, Court Buildings, Quarters for the Judges, court officials and staffs. The State also have to meet all the expenditure for setting up and running of the High Court. Therefore, the primary responsibility of development of Infrastructure facilities for High Courts and District & Subordinate judiciary rests with the State Governments. However, the details of funds allocated to High Courts by the respective state Governments is not maintained centrally.

In order to augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities in district and subordinate courts wherein, construction of Court Halls, Residential Units, Toilet Complexes, Digital Computer Rooms and Lawyers' Hall is covered and for which financial assistance to State Governments /UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern is provided. The scheme is being implemented since 1993-94. The scheme has been further extended from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 9000 crore including central share of Rs. 5307 crore. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 10,035.35 crore under the Scheme so far since its inception, out of which Rs. 6591.04 crore (65.68 %) has been released since 2014-15. The details of funds allocated and spent during the last 5 years is as follows;

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2018-19	650.00	Full
2.	2019-20	982.00	Full
3.	2020-21	593.00	Full
4.	2021-22	770.44	684.14
5.	2022-23	848.00	Full

Article 146(3) of the Constitution stipulates that the administrative expenses of the Supreme Court shall be charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India. The details of allocation made to the Supreme Court of India during last five years is as under:

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2018-19	258.53	Full
2.	2019-20	296.56	Full
3.	2020-21	328.00	Full
4.	2021-22	350.86	341.41
5.	2022-23	405.47	392.78

For the construction of additional office complex of the Supreme Court of India at land adjoining to Pragati Maidan, New Delhi the following funds were given through CPWD by the Government:

Sl.	Date	Details of work for which approval was given
1.	11.07.2012	Administrative approval issued to CPWD for construction of additional building complex of Supreme Court at estimated cost of ₹.884.30 crore.
2.	27.03.2018	Administrative approval issued for Pneumatic Waste Disposal System of ₹.6.5 crore to CPWD, within savings in the approved estimate.
3.	04.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.16.58 crore (₹.7.19 crore for LAN Component and ₹.9.39 crore for VOIP).
4.	11.04.2019	Administrative approval given to CPWD to incur additional expenditure of ₹.30.50 crore for integrated security system.

(d) & (e) The details of allocation of funds and expenditure under eCourts Project and Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) is as under:

(₹. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	ECourts*		DISHA**	
		Total allocation	Utilised	Total allocation	Utilised
1.	2017-18	375.00	374.11	-	-
2.	2018-19	300.00	282.76	-	-
3.	2019-20	180.00	179.26	-	-
4.	2020-21	180.00	179.31	-	-
5.	2021-22	98.82	98.30	40.00	39.96
6.	2022-23	-	-	48.15	47.14

* The funds for eCourts Project Phase-II have been exhausted on 31.03.2022.

** DISHA scheme has been launched in 2021 for a period of five years (2021-26).

In the digitization initiatives under the eCourts scheme, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India through Wide Area Network (WAN) Project. The litigants can access case status information of over 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments, as on 03.07.2023, on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing (VC), with the District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts having heard around 2.77 crore cases till 30.06.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 4,82,941 hearings through video conferencing till 15.05.2023. VC facilities have been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Live Streaming of court proceedings have been started in 7 High Courts & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. 22 Virtual Courts in 18 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases with online fine of more than ₹. 419.89 crore realized till 30.06.2023. 20 High Courts

have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. 819 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out for facilitating the lawyer or litigant who need assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) a technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons have been launched in 28 States/UTs. The “Judgment Search” portal is being provided free of cost to all for search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision: From Date, To Date and Full Text Search.

The Central Sector Scheme on Access to Justice titled “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice in India” has been launched in 2021 for a period of five years (2021-2026), with a total budget of ₹. 250 crore. The scheme aims to provide citizen-centric delivery of legal services with use of technology. It has three components, namely; (i) Tele- Law- to strengthen pre-litigation advice and consultation between the citizens and Panel Lawyers across 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country at the Common Service Centers and is also available via Tele-Law Citizen Mobile APP (on Android & iOS platform) and Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) portal. Tele-Law has enabled advice to 46 lakh beneficiaries as on 30th June,2023; (ii) The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) program aims to connect registered Pro Bono lawyers with registered beneficiaries through Nyaya Bandhu Mobile APP (on Android & iOS platform) and UMANG portal. 10,241 Lawyers have enrolled on the Nyaya Bandhu programme as on 30th June, 2023; (iii) Pan India legal literacy and legal awareness programme ensures legal empowerment of citizens through various State agencies and National Law school's, etc., benefitting approx. 4 Lakh participants through various initiatives of legal literacy and legal awareness programmes (both online and physical mode).