

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 04.08.2023**

**Scheme for Transparent Appointment of Judges**

**†2617. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

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

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated to bring more transparency in the appointment of judges in the High Court and Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) if not, the other steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has reduced paper work by bringing judicial process online and linking it with internet facility; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**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 (e): In order to make the Collegium system of appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts more broad-based, transparent, accountable and for bringing objectivity in the system, the Government brought into force the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 and the National Judicial

Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f. 13.04.2015. However, both the Acts were challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 declared both the Acts as unconstitutional and void. The Collegium system as existing prior to the enforcement of the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2014 was declared to be operative.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide order dated 16.12.2015 directed the Government to finalize the existing MoP by supplementing it in consultation with the Supreme Court Collegium (comprising of the Chief Justice of India and 4 senior most puisne judges) taking into consideration eligibility criteria, transparency, establishment of secretariat and mechanism to deal with complaints. The Government of India after due deliberations, proposed changes in the existing MoP and the draft MoPs were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India vide letter dated 22.03.2016. Responses of Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) were received on 25.05.2016 and 01.07.2016. The comments of Government, in response to the views of SCC were conveyed to the Chief Justice of India on 03.08.2016. The SCC provided their comments on the views of the Government on draft MoP on 13.03.2017. The stand of Government with suggestions to resolve issues involved in appointment of Judges was conveyed to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court vide letter dated 11.07.2017 of Secretary (Justice). In order to ensure transparency in appointment procedure, the government emphasised on the need for a more robust evaluation process by setting up a search-cum-evaluation committee.

In its recent communication dated 06.01.2023 to the Chief Justice of India, the Government has emphasized the need to finalize the MoP in view of various judicial pronouncements. In the letter dated 6.01.2023, the Government again requested the Supreme Court to consider various suggestions sent by the Government from time to time for making the system of appointment of judges

to the Constitutional Courts more transparent, fair, representative and accountable.

The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is a national eGovernance project for ICT enablement of district/subordinate courts of the country with a view to facilitate faster disposal of cases by speeding up court processes and providing transparent on-line flow of information on case status, orders/judgments etc. to the judiciary as well as litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders. With its objective of universal computerisation and Information and Communication Technology enablement of all the District & Subordinate Court complexes, the Department of Justice in close coordination with e-Committee of Supreme Court of India is implementing eCourts Project Phase-II. Till Phase-II, 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized. As part of WAN project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes across India. Using National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), Lawyers and Litigants can access case status information of 23.34 crore cases and more than 22.21 crore orders/judgments.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible, using video conferencing, the District and Subordinate Courts and High Courts have heard nearly 2.77 crore cases and the Supreme Court had heard nearly 4.82 lakh cases. 22 Virtual Courts have been established in 18 States / UTs to try traffic offences and have realized fine of more than Rs. 419.89 crores. To bridge the digital divide, 819 eSewa Kendras have been made functional under 25 High Courts. Citizen centric services are provided through 7 platforms or service delivery channels for providing real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/litigants. Live streaming of court proceedings has started in Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh High Courts &

Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme court of India. Judgment Search Portal has been providing copies of judgments of High Courts free of cost. eCourts project have been accorded multiple awards of national repute.

In the Union Budget 2023-2024, the Government of India announced Phase-III of e-Courts project with an outlay of Rs.7000 crore. Based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) approved by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, the Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting held on 23.02.2023 has approved the eCourts Phase III with a total outlay of Rs.7210 Crore.

\*\*\*