

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. +351
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21th July, 2023**

Disposal of Cases by Fast Track Courts

**+351. SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:
SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:**

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of cases are still pending even after various steps like setting up of Fast Track Courts and Village Courts in various States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of cases disposed of by the Fast Track Courts and village courts since their inception, State and Court-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to dispose of the pending cases at the earliest by setting up more courts and appointment of more judges in the existing courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Maharashtra; and
- (e) the additional steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of the pending cases in a time-bound manner?

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): Establishment of courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Village Courts for providing speedy justice in the country lies within the domain of the State Governments who set up such courts as per their need and resources, in consultation with the respective High Courts.

The 14th Finance Commission (FC) had recommended for setting up of 1800 FTCs during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The FC had further urged State Governments to utilize the enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution (32% to 42%) for this purpose. The Union Government had also urged the State Governments/UTs to allocate funds for setting up of FTCs from the financial year 2015-16 onwards. In this regard, the State Governments/UTs have set up 832 FTCs upto 31.05.2023. The details of FTCs functional, cases disposed of and pending in these courts including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Maharashtra for the last three years and upto May, 2023 are given at **Annexure-I**.

Pursuant to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing, since October 2019, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. The Scheme, initially, was for a period of one year spread over two financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The total cost of the project was Rs.767.25 crore with Rs.474.00 crore as Central Share to be funded from Nirbhaya Fund. The Third Party Evaluation of the Scheme was undertaken by the National Productivity Council which recommended for continuation of the Scheme for 2 more years. The Cabinet approved continuation of the Scheme up to 31st March, 2023 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.1572.86 crore including Rs.971.70 crore as Central Share. As per information made available by the High Courts, 758 FTSCs including 412 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 29 States/UTs which have disposed more than 1,69,000 cases while 1,95,797 cases are pending in these courts as on 31st May, 2023. Details of FTSCs functional, cases disposed of and pending in these courts including Maharashtra for the last 3 years and upto May 2023 are given at **Annexure-II**. 29 States/UTs have joined the Scheme. In 22 States/UTs, FTSCs are fully functional, in 7 States, FTSCs are partially operational while Arunachal Pradesh

and A&N Islands are yet to join the Scheme. An amount of Rs.633.70 crore have been released to the States/UTs since inception of the scheme up to 31.03.2023.

The disposal of cases lies exclusively within the domain of the Judiciary. The Central Government has no direct role in the matter. However, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide suitable environment for timely disposal of cases by the judiciary, as follows:-

(i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that would provide infrastructure aimed to ease the work of lawyers and litigants and aid justice delivery. As on date, Rs.10065.00crore have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,365 as on 30.06.2023, and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,846 as on 30.06.2023, under this scheme.

(ii) Further, under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been leveraged for IT enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerised district & subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. 819 e-SewaKendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case-related information, and e-filing facilities. 22 virtual courts have been set up in 18 States/UTs. As on 30.06.2023, these courts have handled more than 3.26 crore cases and realized more than Rs.419.89 crore in fines. eCourts Phase-III Project is about to begin which intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial

Intelligence (AI) and Block chain to make justice delivery more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

(iii) The Government has been regularly filling up the vacancies in higher judiciary. From 01.05.2014 to 18.07.2023, 58 Judges have been appointed in Supreme Court. 919 new Judges have been appointed and 653 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has increased from 906 in May 2014 to 1114 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in district and subordinate courts has increased as given below:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
10.07.2023	25,245	19,870

However, filling up of vacancies in subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

(iv) In pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Chief Justices' Conference held in April 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District courts as well.

(v) To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a scheme for setting up of 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, 29 States/UTs have joined the scheme.

(vi) With a view to reducing the pendency and unclogging of the courts, 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.

(vii) Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted wholeheartedly. Accordingly, the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended on 20th August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in cases of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

(viii) LokAdalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under the Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a LokAdalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. LokAdalat is not a permanent establishment. National LokAdalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date. The details of the case disposed of in LokAdalats during the last three years are as under:-

Years	Pre-litigation Cases	Pending Cases	Grand Total
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023 (Upto 17.06.2023)	3,00,11,291	61,88,686	3,61,99,977
Total	6,82,32,800	2,26,81,224	9,09,14,024

(ix) The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provided an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayat and through Tele-Law mobile App.

***Percentage Wise break-up of Tele – Law Data**

Till June, 2023	Cases Registered	% Wise Break Up	Advice Enabled	% Wise Break Up
Gender-Wise				
Female	11,46,046	33.43	11,23,504	33.49
Male	22,82,642	66.57	22,31,041	66.51

Caste Category-Wise				
General	7,31,346	21.33	7,12,646	21.24
OBC	10,08,050	29.40	9,83,336	29.31
SC	10,86,611	31.69	10,66,037	31.78
ST	6,02,681	17.58	5,92,526	17.66
Total	34,28,688		33,54,545	

(x) Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 22 High Courts at the State level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 69 select Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

Annexure for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.351 for 21/07/2023
Details of FTC functional, cases disposed of and pending cases in these courts for last three years upto May 2023

S. No.	State/UTs	2020			2021			2022			2023		
		FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st December)	Cases Disposed of During the year	Cases pending (as on 31 st December)	FTC (as on 31 st May)	Cases Disposed (as on 31 st May)	Cases pending (as on 31 st May)
1	Andhra Pradesh	21	1177	10069	21	312	10069	22	1446	6855	22	1111	7200
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	181
4	Assam	14	2615	10108	16	3780	9356	16	7413	10750	16	3160	11518
5	Bihar	33	1759	58636	0	1603	69792	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh		0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	23	2877	15310	23	5324	17779	23	4158	5330	23	1519	5050
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	5	393	40733	7	223	48520	10	1019	4057	6	400	2788
10	Diu & Daman	0	0		0			0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	130	0	0	59974	0	4	7114	2215	4	2789	2286
12	Gujarat	0	462	33560	35	37102	35335	54	3784	6791	54	2652	6527
13	Haryana	5	825	58511	6	899	65337	6	433	873	6	235	791
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	15618	0	5	5102	3	313	497	1	40	226
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1	27	0	4	391	0	4	54	686	5	15	1071
16	Jharkhand	40	624	14507	6	861	19371	34	2417	7836	34	965	7916
17	Karnataka	13	210	38365	18	2051	39458	0	1257	0	0	0	0
18	Kerala	23	217	100479	28	2333	114020	0	1650	0	0	0	0
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	15584	0	0	25769	1	59	193	0	0	0

22	Maharashtra	116	63470	52079	110	114254	67315	111	118311	158149	97	101446	137903
23	Manipur	6	45	634	6	73081	634	6	316	360	6	121	309
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	2	179	0	2	1758	0	2	221	223	2	111	219
26	Nagaland	1	3	66	0	3	153	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Odisha	0	0	39670	19	234	44689	0	304	0	0	0	0
28	Puducherry	0	0	1535	0	0	1452	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Punjab	7	85	52198	7	471	85061	7	248	255	7	115	225
30	Rajasthan	0	0	44222	0	32	46048	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Sikkim	2	5	188	2	5	195	2	20	14	2	5	14
32	Tamil Nadu	73	9389	29970	74	7865	32519	73	24993	107346	72	10503	92344
33	Telangana	29	1525	15469	35	2849	18095	0	2645	0	0	0	0
34	Tripura	11	100	2551	11	347	3604	3	386	1393	3	71	1417
35	Uttar Pradesh	389	148466	413176	376	86013	396462	372	333049	1086490	372	403331	1221761
36	Uttarakhand	4	170	15119	4	215	15997	7	554	1532	4	166	923
37	West Bengal	87	5202	0	88	3172	1166	88	21065	72824	88	21761	77517
	Total	907	239956	1078357	898	405168	1173298	848	533229	1474669	832	550523	1578186

STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (As on 31.05.2023)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts		Cumulative Disposal since the inception of the Scheme			No. of cases pending at the end of the month			Cumulative Pendency
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO	FTSCs	ePOCSO	Total	FTSCs		ePOCSO	
							Rape	POCSO		
FULLY FUNCTIONAL										
1	Chhattisgarh	15	11	547	2976	3523	107	400	1987	2494
2	Gujarat	35	24	1647	6598	8245	624	722	5181	6527
3	Mizoram	3	1	95	30	125	7	32	24	63
4	Nagaland	1	0	48	3	51	2	53	0	55
5	Jharkhand	22	16	1651	2997	4648	634	564	3158	4356
6	Madhya Pradesh	67	57	2865	15897	18762	2360	156	8806	11322
7	Manipur	2	0	95	0	95	12	106	0	118
8	Haryana	16	12	1117	3053	4170	291	726	2899	3916
9	Chandigarh	1	0	171	0	171	69	148	0	217
10	Rajasthan	45	30	3154	7126	10280	202	1198	5470	6870
11	Tamil Nadu	14	14	0	5178	5178	0	0	5036	5036
12	Tripura	3	1	108	125	233	151	45	106	302
13	Uttar Pradesh	218	74	23559	21429	44988	6422	24610	48758	79790
14	Uttarakhand	4	0	1138	0	1138	322	599	0	921
15	Delhi	16	11	347	702	1049	1218	0	3151	4369
16	Meghalaya	5	5	0	290	290	0	0	1013	1013
17	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	63	63	126	188	0	252	440
18	Punjab	12	3	1238	1488	2726	426	613	511	1550
19	Himachal P	6	3	195	553	748	150	356	421	927
20	Karnataka	31	17	1890	4775	6665	2326	0	3008	5334
21	Telangana	36	0	4047	2731	6778	205	7864	0	8069
22	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	209	209
PARTIALLY FUNCTIONAL										
23	Andhra Pradesh	16	16	0	2729	2729	0	0	7277	7277
24	Assam	17	17	0	3566	3566	0	0	4557	4557
25	Bihar	45	45	0	7533	7533	0	0	16013	16013
26	Goa	1	1	0	30	30	0	0	44	44
27	Kerala	53	14	8880	3990	12870	1066	4086	1775	6927
28	Maharashtra	30	14	5439	8887	14326	688	2497	2632	5817
29	Odisha	39	23	2827	5472	8299	770	2570	7924	11264
NON FUNCTIONAL										
30	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	758	412	61121	108221	169342	18240	47345	130212	195797

