

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *113
ANSWERED ON – 09/02/2024

FAMILY COURTS

*113. SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN:

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

- (a) the number of Family Courts functioning in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of cases filed, settled and pending in these courts during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether States are facing problems in settlement of cases registered in these courts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *113 FOR THE 09th FEBRUARY, 2024 REGARDING 'FAMILY COURTS'

(a) & (b): The details of family courts functioning at present in the country, State-wise and cases filed, settled and pending during the last three years are given at **Annexure**.

(c) to (e): The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs. Under Section 3(1) (a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the family courts may also be set up if the State Governments deem it necessary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, 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. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

In Family Courts, delays in proceedings exacerbate tensions and prolong emotional stress, hindering timely dispute resolution. Enforcing decisions on child custody, visitation rights, and financial support remains challenging despite court rulings, leading to continued conflict and frustration. Additionally, the requirement for travel to another city for court appearances imposes significant logistical and financial burdens, especially for families already under strain. It is also important to note that counsellors play a vital role in providing advice and guidance, but their effectiveness depends on proper training and capacity building. Improving Family Courts necessitates providing sufficient infrastructure and specialized judges with adequate training. Sensitizing judges, court staff, and stakeholders, along with gender sensitivity training, is imperative to ensure fair treatment, reduce bias, and protect the rights of all parties, particularly women. Considering the appointment of lady judges and counsellors could further enhance the system's effectiveness.

The Government has brought these issues to the attention of the States and High Courts by sending communications at the level of Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and the Chief Justices of all High Courts. The last such

communication was sent on 15.07.2023. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedures for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development. The Family Courts are also covered by the ambit of these initiatives. The major initiatives are given below:

i. Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary was launched in 1993. Under this Scheme, the number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 21,524 as on 31.12.2023 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,951 as on 31.12.2023. Since inception of the Scheme, an amount of Rs.10567.00 has been released till 06.02.2024. The Scheme has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs.9,000 crore, including central share will be Rs.5,307 crore. Besides construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of Lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

ii. Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:

The Central Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. The number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. Wide Area Network (WAN) connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including judicial officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 02.02.2024, litigants can access case status of over 24.99 crore cases and 24.87 crore orders/judgments pertaining to these courts. e-Courts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders and final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through e-Courts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all

computerized courts, e-Courts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails.

With a view to handling the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 880 e-Sewa Kendras 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. Rs.28.886crore has been allocated for providing equipment in video conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs.12.12 crore has been allocated for 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes. 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. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases while the High Court heard 82,76,595 cases (totalling more than 3 crore) using video conferencing till 31.12.2023.

iii. **Filling up of vacant positions in District and Subordinate Courts:** Sanctioned and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follow:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
31.12.2023	25,348	20,018

iv. **Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

Annexure as referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *113 for 09.02.2024

State/UT-wise details of functional courts and No. of Cases filed, Cases disposed and Cases pending during last three years

S.No	State/Uts	Functional Court	Cases Filed			Cases Disposed			Cases Pending		
			2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	15	5635	6877	8552	1632	4990	8090	10069	10447	13205
2	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	0	262	0	0	307	0	0	799
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	7	3935	6130	5758	4103	7450	4937	9356	7532	7158
5	Bihar	39	19382	24085	22737	7795	22501	21445	69792	71376	72668
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27	11525	15548	17550	9527	14995	16763	17779	18718	19505
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	30	21382	22664	***	30166	21014	***	48520	***	***
10	Diu & Daman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	36	18508	24910	27194	22124	26557	30084	35335	34761	31954
13	Haryana	28	33315	46271	49164	31589	48301	43652	65337	62231	64656
14	Himachal Pradesh	3	2706	6275	4171	3096	5470	4160	5102	5924	6301
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	31	9380	13312	15782	5873	16670	16855	19371	15999	15306
17	Karnataka	40	21684	28208	29391	22603	28259	30409	39458	39397	38407
18	Kerala	35	50975	68111	84610	47146	68289	86250	114020	113756	112267
19	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Madhya Pradesh	63	18758	12974	41598	18140	13724	43231	25769	65283	64020
22	Maharashtra	51	29321	40186	38830	26789	39673	40399	67315	67828	66259
23	Manipur	4	441	674	560	251	1058	422	634	628	720
24	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nagaland	2	185	257	210	150	223	194	153	199	233
27	Odisha	30	10874	14653	15588	8980	19567	18577	44689	39786	36797
28	Puducherry	2	873	1232	1094	835	1363	845	1452	1212	1473
29	Punjab	33	61023	67286	68711	40297	71313	72668	85061	79413	73388
30	Rajasthan	50	30168	43357	50912	27187	41740	48155	46048	47957	50714
31	Sikkim	2	240	349	287	286	417	325	195	148	35
32	Tamil Nadu	40	21774	25645	22608	13468	27775	23039	32519	30952	32222
33	Telangana	23	10820	11814	13439	11622	10568	13227	18095	7213	18888
34	Tripura	9	2762	4028	3636	2717	3663	3726	3604	3977	3957
35	Uttar Pradesh	189	170634	229098	287494	183793	234047	284091	396462	390256	396875
36	Uttarakhand	18	10749	13342	14707	11319	14722	14726	15997	14617	14591
37	West Bengal	4	165	301	657	118	351	312	1166	1124	1517
38	Total	812	497447	727587	825502	531606	744700	826889	1173298	1130734	1143915
*** Data not provided by the concerned High Court											

