

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †1272**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024**

**e-Courts**

**†1272. DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN:**

**SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:**

**DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:**

**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:**

Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-Courts mission mode project;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government under the various phases of the project including policy initiatives for creation of necessary infrastructure for e-courts;
- (c) the number of courts with the requisite digital infrastructure along with the status of implementation of the e-Court project, State-wise and district-wise;
- (d) the manner in which the personal data is maintained in these courts and safety measures in place to check data breach; and
- (e) the training and awareness programme for judicial staff regarding the use of e-courts?

**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): As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology

in the Indian Judiciary”. eCourts project is being implemented by Department of Justice in association with eCommittee Supreme Court of India. Phase I of the eCourts project was implemented between 2011-2015. It aimed at computerization of courts and providing network connectivity. Phase I of the e-Courts project was largely aimed at procuring and installing hardware and providing network connectivity LAN. It operationalised the national e-Courts portal with limited online services. Phase II of the project extended from 2015-2023. The Government has taken the following e-initiatives to make justice accessible and available for all in eCourts Phase II: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2994) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- 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 24.79 crore cases and more than 24.53 crore orders / judgments (as on 02.01.2024).
- 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.
- iv. A new software patch and court user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool will help in smart scheduling of cases thereby enabling judicial officers to retain urgent cases and adjourn cases not urgent on cause list. A user manual for this patch has also been issued for the ease of the stakeholders.
- v. 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 (4,74,371 SMS sent daily), Email (6,06,818 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 2.15 downloads till 31.12.2023) and JustIS app for judges ((19,461 downloads till 31.12.2023).

- vi. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,17,99,976 cases while the High Courts heard 82,76,595 cases (totalling 3 crore) till 31.12.2023 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held 6,24,427 hearings through video conferencing till 04.01.2024. 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.
- vii. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Gauhati, Orissa, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Patna, Madhya Pradesh & Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- viii. 25 Virtual Courts in 20 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 4.24 crore cases have been handled by 25 virtual courts and in more than 47 lakhs (47,51,482) cases online fine of more than Rs. 492.79 crore has been realized till 31.12.2023.
- ix. 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 21 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.12.2023.
- x. 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 21 High Courts have implemented e-

payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.12.2023.

- xi. To bridge the digital divide, 880 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. It also assists the litigants in accessing online e-Courts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large. It will provide benefits in saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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 facility is being provided free of cost to all.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 13.09.2023 approved eCourts Phase-III with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7210 crore. Subsequently, Rs. 225 crore has been released for eCourts Phase III by the Ministry of Finance from the Contingency Fund, out of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been sub-allocated to various High Courts for scanning and digitization, e-Sewa Kendras, IT Hardware for existing and newly setup courts, solar power backup etc. Rs. 600 crore has recently been received as RE for FY 2023-24. eCourts Phase III envisages state of the art and latest Cloud based data repository for easy retrieval; paperless courts; video conferencing facilities to be expanded to also cover district hospitals; Live Streaming of court proceedings and expansion of the

scope of Virtual Courts. The project will help provide a smoother user experience by building a “smart” ecosystem. Registries will have less data entry and minimal file scrutiny facilitating better decision-making and policy planning. The eCourts Phase-III may thus prove to be a game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. The High Court wise details of implementation of eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(d): The Supreme Court of India in its decision in Justice K S Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India has held that right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms governed by Part III of the Constitution. To balance the right of privacy, right to information and data security, a Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts, has been constituted by the Chairperson of the e-Committee to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the e- Courts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens. Following institutional arrangements for Data and Cyber Security are already in place:

- In eCourts Phase II, public facing applications developed centrally and hosted on central infrastructure is taken care of by the National Informatics Centre as per their comprehensive guidelines for secure application and infrastructure.
- These applications are audited periodically by NIC through CERTIN empanelled vendor.

- Comprehensive Cyber Security Audit of eCourts Applications and Infrastructure was completed under guidance of eCommittee.

(e): As per the data received from eCommittee, Supreme Court of India the training and awareness programmes conducted from May 2020 to December 2022 for judicial staff in shown in below table.

Year	Number of Trainings	Number of Participants
May 2020-December 2020	15	70960
January 2021- December 2021	23	25397
January 2022- December 2022	197	143773

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**Annexure-I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1272 for 09/02/2024 regarding e-Courts. The details of implementation of eCourts in the country are as under:

S.No.	High Court	State	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
		Daman and Diu	2
		Goa	39
		Maharashtra	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14
		West Bengal	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	28
		Assam	408
		Mizoram	69
		Nagaland	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	484
		Lakshadweep	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	24
		Tamil Nadu	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	686
19	Patna	Bihar	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	30
		Haryana	500
		Punjab	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	271
	<b>Total</b>		<b>18735</b>