

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 222
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 2nd FEBRUARY, 2024

Functional e-Courts

222. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) the number of e-Courts functional across the country at present and those under development, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for the e-Court project during the last three years and the current year across the country, State-wise specially Bihar and Rajasthan;
- (c) whether the Government has set any target for setting up such courts in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with achievements made so far in this regard;
- (e) the number of courts with requisite digital infrastructure; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government under various phases of e-Court project and the status of the project, State-wise?

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): The High Court wise details of functional eCourts in the country has been attached at Annexure-I.

(b): Funds released and utilised during the last three years across the country including Bihar and Rajasthan are given in Annexure-II.

(c) to (f): 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. 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: -

- 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 3crore) 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 4.24crore 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, 880eSewa 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 Detailed Project Report (DPR) for eCourts Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India on 21.10.2022. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) accorded approval to the Phase-III of eCourts Project in its meeting held on 23.02.2023. 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. 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.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 222 for 02/02/2024 regarding Functional e-Courts. The details of operational 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
	Total		18735

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 222 for 02/02/2024 regarding the funds released during the last three years across the country including Bihar and Rajasthan is:

S.No.	High Courts	2019-2020		2020-21		2021-22	
		Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)	Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)
1	Allahabad	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22	0.00	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	1.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Bombay	0.00	0.00	8.86	8.86	0.00	0.00
4	Calcutta	0.00	0.00	4.93	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34	0.00	0.00
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.85	0.00	0.00
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18
8	Gauhati (Assam)	13.68	13.40	6.11	1.78	3.49	3.46
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.30	0.25
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84
11	Gujarat*	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.83	0.00	0.00
12	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.78	0.00	0.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
14	Jharkhand	5.53	0.35	2.98	0.48	0.00	0.00
15	Karnataka	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29	0.00	0.00
16	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58
17	Madhya Pradesh	11.21	11.06	6.28	6.21	0.00	0.00
18	Madras	0.00	0.00	4.73	2.46	0.00	0.00
19	Manipur	0.61	0.60	1.30	1.28	0.76	0.75
20	Meghalaya	0.92	0.09	2.32	0.51	2.23	0.85
21	Orissa	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31	0.00	0.00
22	Patna	7.08	6.40	5.44	5.30	0.00	0.00

23	Punjab & Haryana	0.00	0.00	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00
24	Rajasthan	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62
25	Sikkim	1.61	0.68	1.01	0.92	0.77	0.00
26	Telangana	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Tripura	2.24	2.19	4.44	4.05	0.96	0.78
28	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.12	0.00	0.00
Total		88.44	78.50	107.74	80.57	13.80	11.31

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 crore. Total utilization included surrendered funds.

NOTE 1: For year the 2022-2023 no funds were released as the total outlay of Phase II amounting to Rs. 1670 crore had been exhausted and the DPR of Phase –III eCourts was under the process of approval.

NOTE 2: eCourts Phase-III was approved by the Union Cabinet on 13.09.2023 and Ministry of Finance released Rs. 225 crore from the Contingency Fund of India on 05.10.2023 of which Rs. 102.50 crore has been allocated to BSNL and NIC and Rs. 110.24 crore has been allocated to various High Courts. Recently on 08.01.2024 Rs. 600 crore under RE 2023-24 has been received for further allocation to different High Courts as per the plan approved by the eCommittee of Supreme of India.