

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2575
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 4th DECEMBER, 2019**

Linking of Courts through Video Conferencing

**2575. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:
SHRI PINAKI MISRA:**

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

- (a) the State-wise number of prisons and courts that have been linked via video conferencing across the country;
- (b) whether any amendment has been made to permit the use of video conferencing during trial hearings;
- (c) if so, the details of implementation of this amendment;
- (d) the number of prisoners being produced via video conferencing for remand hearing and trial hearings across the country; and
- (e) the details of the nodal agency in charge of monitoring and documenting the use of video-conferencing at the district/ State/national level?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS
AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) : Under the eCourts Mission Mode Project, video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. State/UT wise information is placed in the Annexure.

(b) and (c): An amendment was made in section 167 (2) (b) of Code of Criminal Procedure to extend further detention of the accused in judicial custody through the medium of electronic video linkage.

As per the said section, no Magistrate shall authorise detention of the accused in custody of the police under this section unless the accused is produced before him in person for the first time and subsequently every time till the accused remains in the custody of the police, but the Magistrate may extend further detention in judicial custody on production of the accused either in person or through the medium of electronic video linkage.

(d) and ((e) : The nodal agency in charge of monitoring and documenting the use of video conferencing varies from State to State. In some States, the documentation is recorded in the proceedings of case records. In some States, Nodal Officers under eCourts project at District Level and Central Project Coordinator (CPC) of High Court at State Level do the monitoring and documenting of use of video conferencing. In some other States, the remote end District Jails are also maintaining the records of such under trial prisoners in which judicial proceedings are conducted through video conferencing. Therefore, the details of number of prisoners being produced via video conferencing for remand hearing and trial hearings across the country are not maintained centrally but by the respective nodal agency.

ANNEXURE

S. No	High Court	State/UT	Total Court Complexes	Total Jails
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	150	65
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	212	111
3	Bombay	D & N Haveli	1	1
		Daman & Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	2
		Maharashtra	466	138
4	Calcutta	A & N Islands	4	4
		West Bengal	84	53
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	90	28
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	10
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	2
		Assam	68	29
		Mizoram	8	7
		Nagaland	11	11
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	327	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	43	12
10	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	86	14
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	27
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	200	97
13	Kerala	Kerala	156	33
		Lakshadweep	3	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	203	122
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	2
		Tamil Nadu	263	117
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	2
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	6	4
18	Orissa	Odisha	141	88
19	Patna	Bihar	76	56
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	1
		Haryana	53	19
		Punjab	64	24
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	238	95
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	4	2
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	44
24	Tripura	Tripura	13	13
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	52	10
TOTAL			3240	1272