

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3704

TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 11th DECEMBER, 2019.

Speedy Disposal of Cases

3704. MS.S.JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of the cases and improving the efficacy of the legal justice system;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to expand the judicial infrastructure for the timely delivery of justice;
- (c) State-wise number of vacancies in judicial positions; and
- (d) the reforms to be undertaken by the Government to improve the quality of legal education and practice?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): The Union Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency of cases. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has adopted many strategic initiatives, including improving infrastructure [court halls and residential units] for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts, leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for better justice delivery, filling up of vacant positions of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court, reduction in pendency through follow up by Arrears Committees at District, High Court and Supreme Court level, emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and initiatives to fast track special type of cases. The major steps taken during the last five years under various initiatives are as follows:

- (i) Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts: As on date, Rs. 7,453.10 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. Out of this, Rs.4,008.80 crores (which is 53.79% of the total amount released till date) have been released to the States and UTs since April, 2014. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,489 as on 05.12.2019 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 17,090 as on 05.12.2019 under this scheme. In addition, 2,802 court halls and 1,831 residential units are under construction.
- (ii) Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery: Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased from 13,672 to 16,845 registering an increase of 3,173 during 2014 till date. 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). Currently, case status information in respect of over 12.23 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 10.26 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts is available on NJDG. eCourts services such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments are available to litigants and advocates through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails.
- (iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts: From 01.05.2014 to 05.12.2019, 35 Judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 495 new Judges were appointed and 427 Additional Judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of Judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1079 currently. Sanctioned

and working strength of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
05.12.2019	23,597	18,144

- (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 Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts.
- (v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR): Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20th August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement 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.
- (vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases: The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 30.09.2019, 704 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children, family and matrimonial disputes, etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi) and proportionate funds have been released to these States by the Government. Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 15 States have joined the scheme for setting up

of 420 FTSCs and 203 exclusive POCSO courts. Rs.89.1 crore (out of the total allocation of Rs.100 crore) has already been released as the first instalment to these 15 States.

(c): The vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and various High Courts and vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts, State / UT-wise is given in a statement at ***Annexure-I*** and ***Annexure-II*** respectively.

(d): Projects titled “Global practices in Continuing Legal Education: Emerging Platforms for Professional Developments of Advocates” and “Role of Clinical Legal Education in improving the quality of Legal Education and increasing access to justice to the marginalized in the State of Gujarat” have been sanctioned to Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur and Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar respectively under the Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms.

Vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	2019 As on 01.12.2019
	Supreme Court	01
	High Court	
1	Allahabad	60
2	Andhra Pradesh	22
3	Bombay	29
4	Calcutta	32
5	Chhattisgarh	07
6	Delhi	23
7	Gauhati	03
8	Gujarat	24
9	Himachal Pradesh	03
10	High Court for Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh	09
11	Jharkhand	06
12	Karnataka	22
13	Kerala	15
14	Madhya Pradesh	22
15	Madras	21
16	Manipur	01
17	Meghalaya	01
18	Orissa	13
19	Patna	26
20	Punjab & Haryana	29
21	Rajasthan	29
22	Sikkim	00
23	Telangana	11
24	Tripura	01
25	Uttarakhand	01
	Total	410

Annexure – II**Vacancies of Judicial Officers in District and Subordinate Courts, State/UT-wise, as on
05.12.2019**

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Vacancy
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	-13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	68
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
4.	Assam	29
5.	Bihar	695
6.	Chandigarh	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	74
8.	D & N Haveli	0
9.	Daman & Diu	1
10.	Delhi	119
11.	Goa	7
12.	Gujarat	321
13.	Haryana	297
14.	Himachal Pradesh	23
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	58
16.	Jharkhand	215
17.	Karnataka	239
18.	Kerala	75
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	517
21.	Maharashtra	247
22.	Manipur	16
23.	Meghalaya	48
24.	Mizoram	18
25.	Nagaland	8
26.	Odisha	148
27.	Puducherry	15
28.	Punjab	96
29.	Rajasthan	307
30.	Sikkim	6
31.	Tamil Nadu	137
32.	Telangana	79
33.	Tripura	24
34.	Uttar Pradesh	1404
35.	Uttarakhand	66
36.	West Bengal	94
Total		5453