

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1825**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**E-courts**

**1825. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:**  
**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:**  
**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**  
**SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:**

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

- (a) the current status of electronic courts in the country to eliminate the growing burden of cases in courts;
- (b) whether e-courts are fully capable of effective and timely disposal of cases and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred in the e-courts, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether Indian courts have adopted the method of e-filing;
- (e) if so, the details of the courts where e-filing is compulsory; and
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases in Indian judiciary?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a): The Government is implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of District and Subordinate Courts across the country in association with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II commenced its implementation in 2015. The target set out under the project is computerization of 16,845 District and Subordinate Courts, which has been completed. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for this Phase, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1459.52 crore

(including Rs. 68.33 crore in 2020-21) to various organizations involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of Rs. 1077.76.crore released to all High Courts, out of which a sum of Rs.790.04 crore has been utilized till 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020. In the financial year 2020-21, funds have been released to all High Courts for eSewa Kendra for High Courts and District Court Complexes, equipment for VC Cabins and Connectivity in Court Complexes and creating Help Desk Counters for eFiling in Court Complexes.

As per information received from eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, 16845 courts have been computerized. The High Court wise status of implementation of eCourts Project Phase-II is at Annexure-I.

(b): Disposal of cases in courts is primarily within the domain of judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges, 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 to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

However, through computerization of 16,845 District & Subordinate Courts and ICT enablement under the eCourts Project Phase-II, several services have been provided to litigants, lawyers and Judiciary which facilitate expeditious delivery of judicial services. 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 & SMS pull services and touch screen based Information Kiosks. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts, created as an online platform under the Project, provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Currently, all stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access case status information in respect of over 13.75 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 12.68 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

(c): The details of funds released and expenditure incurred by High Courts on eCourts Project Phase-II have been provided at Annexure-I.

(d) to (f): Under the eCourts Project, e-filing application has been developed. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court has designed and rolled out in the year 2018, an e-filing system Version 1.0 and created a portal for this purpose (e-Filing.ecourts.gov.in). The portal enables electronic filing of legal papers. E-filing being the principal foundation for future technological enhancement in the Indian Judiciary, Version 1.0 is already available in High Courts and District Courts. The e-Filing application is integrated into the District Court CIS 3.2 & High Court CIS 1.0 software. The upgraded Version 2.0 for e-filing has also been prepared by e-Committee, Supreme Court of India, and is presently in an advanced stage undergoing security audits. E-filing software application version 2.0 has been prepared with the latest features like Advocate Portfolio, Advocate Clerk entry module, Calendar and integration with social media platforms. Draft Model e-filing rules have been framed and circulated by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court for adoption by the various High Courts to develop a standard operating procedure. However, e-filing has not been made compulsory in any court.

IT Establishment of Virtual Courts have helped to reduce paper wastage and to eliminate the burden of court cases. Virtual Courts have been rolled out to try traffic challan cases and have met with appreciable results. Presently there are 7 such courts in 6 States viz Delhi (2), Faridabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi and Pune. Environmentally friendly, these Virtual Courts enable adjudication of cases in paperless manner with e-payment of the fine imposed. The litigants can file the complaint electronically through e-filing, appears before a Judge virtually and also pay the court fees or fine online. Over 16 lakhs cases have been handled by these 7 Virtual Courts. Further to reduce the burden of court cases, the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms 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 procedure and setting up Fast Track Courts for quick disposal of

cases, use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism and emphasis on human resource development.

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## ANNEXURE-I

Sr.No	High Court	Number of computerized district and subordinate courts	Total Funds released and Utilized by High Court	
			Released (Cr.)	Utilized (Cr.)
1	Allahabad	2072	99.10	80.96
2	Bombay	2079	118.50	89.14
3	Calcutta	811	33.81	14.84
4	Chhattisgarh	357	25.95	20.40
5	Delhi	427	24.49	10.69
6	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	496	10.12	3.51
7	Gauhati (Assam)		68.94	38.61
8	Gauhati (Mizoram)		6.85	5.79
9	Gauhati (Nagaland)		6.33	5.63
10	Gujarat	1108	70.13	46.23
11	Himachal Pradesh	119	9.88	8.30
12	Jammu & Kashmir	218	18.33	16.25
13	Jharkhand	351	22.42	15.74
14	Karnataka	897	62.17	46.41
15	Kerala	486	33.69	28.43
16	Madhya Pradesh	1293	69.68	56.56
17	Madras	1032	66.60	56.39
18	Manipur	37	8.37	4.67
19	Meghalaya	39	9.62	6.87
20	Orissa	534	44.25	27.63
21	Patna	1025	51.65	36.79
22	Punjab & Haryana	1018	50.66	48.78
23	Rajasthan	1094	63.98	56.46
24	Sikkim	19	6.68	2.89
25	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	1078	70.82	47.52
26	Tripura	69	13.65	10.01
27	Uttarakhand	186	11.11	4.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16845</b>	<b>1077.76</b>	<b>790.04</b>

