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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1598 TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th FEBRUARY, 2021

e-Courts

1598. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Govenment has developed a mechanism to assess the working of the e-Courts policy and differential effects of the implementation of the policy on various types of litigants keeping in mind the importance and money being spent on ecourts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether there are any plans in the pipeline and can the portal of the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) be used for the same?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II is implemented by the Department of Justice in collaboration with eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India headed by a Supreme Court Judge. There is a provision for mid term and end term external evaluation and appraisal to assess the working and impact of the eCourts Project.

The draft mid term appraisal report has been received from National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the salient observations include:

- 90-100% of sample courts have provision of computers hardware and have installed Case Information System (CIS).
- Services like Case Information System (CIS), JustIS mobile app and The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) website are used very often and have an easy user interface.
- Majority of judges and court official feels that eCourts project has reduced pendency of cases because of easy access to cases laws resulting in better research.
- The pendency of cases over 5 years have displayed slow but steady decline over the years.
- Since 2017, a sharp increase in the clearance rate of district courts is also noticed.
- (c): Does not arise in view of (a & b) above.