

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2607
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 10th MARCH, 2021

E-courts

2607. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement the e-Court project in the country with a view to upgrading information and communication technology infrastructure in various courts including High Court and District Courts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds spent so far;
- (c) the time by which all the courts will be connected with video conferencing;
- (d) the total number of cases pending in Supreme Court of India and High Court of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending cases in a time bound manner?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. 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. So far 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts have been computerized and out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2939 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1548.13 crore for implementation of the project.

With the computerization of 18,735 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 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 18.28 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 13.88 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts on the NJDG. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including Taluk Level Court Complexes in rural areas under the Phase II of the e-Courts Project for virtual hearings. To further augment the

Video Conferencing (VC) infrastructure, the eCommittee of the Supreme Court has approved VC equipment to be provided to 14,443 court rooms in these court complexes for which funds to the tune of Rs.28.88 crore has been released. During the pandemic period the High Courts heard 24,55,139 cases, while District and Subordinate courts heard 51,83,021 cases over Video Conferencing up to 31/01/2021.

(d): As on 01.02.2021, 66,072 cases are pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As per data available on NJDG on 03.03.2021, total cases pending in Andhra Pradesh High Court are 2, 09,993.

(e) : Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. Though Government has no role in disposal of cases in courts, the Central Government is committed to speedy disposal of cases and reduction in pendency. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, through various strategic initiatives like improving the infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges and filling up of vacant positions in High Courts/Supreme Court, policy and legislative measures in areas prone to excessive litigation, repeal of outdated and archaic laws, initiatives to fast track special type of cases and emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution etc.
