

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 381
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 3rd FEBRUARY, 2021

Virtual Court

381. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) whether District and Subordinate Courts lack basic infrastructure and are experiencing difficulties in adapting to Virtual Court system and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of lower and subordinate courts with WAN connectivity and video conferencing facilities;
- (c) whether Courts are moving towards virtual courts and is there need for electronic indigenous software system for secured transmission;
- (d) if so, whether the Courts or the Counsel appearing for the parties have any option for accessing these systems;
- (e) if not, whether the Government has any plans to develop indigenous software systems to ensure secured transmission of the Virtual court proceedings?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : 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 (Details at Annexure-I). A sum of Rs. 5.012 crore has also been released for setting up of 2506 VC Cabin in the Court Complexes besides releasing a sum of Rs. Rs. 7.60 crore to install Document Visualisers. The District and Subordinate Courts have heard 45.73 lakh cases over VC between 24.03.2020 to 31.12.2020. The Wide Area Network (WAN) Project under eCourts project is aimed at connecting all District and Subordinate court complexes, spread across the country using various technologies like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC), Radio Frequency (RF), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) etc. So far, 2933 sites have been connected out of total 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.

(c) to (e): Under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II computerization of 18,735 District & Subordinate Courts has been completed. To provide end to end digital solution, Case Information System using free and open source software automates the entire process of court registry. Several services have been provided to litigants, lawyers and other stakeholders such as details of case registration, cause list, case status, daily orders & final judgments through eCourts web portal, Judicial Service Centres (JSCs) ,eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & SMS pull services and touch screen based Information Kiosks. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) for District & Subordinate Courts has been created as an online platform which provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all High Courts and District /subordinate courts of the country. Currently, all stakeholders including Judicial Officers and lawyers can access case status information in respect of over 17.90 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 13.36 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized courts. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes & 1272 corresponding jails.

A centralized and upgraded cloud based Video-Conferencing infrastructure with latest features including robust data security and facility to support a larger number of concurrent users has been approved by the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India, which can be usable for district and subordinate courts also. Under the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' initiative of Govt. of India, Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology has evaluated and shortlisted indigenously developed VC solution which is currently under testing.

ANNEXURE-I**Fund release for VC equipment for Court Rooms**

S.No	High Court	Number of Functioning Court Rooms	Number of VC equipment were already provided	Number of additional equipment to be provided	Total Estimated Cost (In Rs. Lakh)
A	B	C	D	E	F=Ex20000
1	Allahabad	2438	150	2288	457.6
2	Andhra Pradesh	550	212	338	67.6
3	Bombay	2178	486	1692	338.4
4	Calcutta	840	88	752	150.4
5	Chhattisgarh	395	90	305	61
6	Delhi	479	6	473	94.6
7	Gauhati	442	194	248	49.6
8	Gujarat	1078	327	751	150.2
9	Himachal Pradesh	135	43	92	18.4
10	Jammu & Kashmir	218	86	132	26.4
11	Jharkhand	417	28	389	77.8
12	Karnataka	1029	200	829	165.8
13	Kerala	508	159	349	69.8
14	Madhya Pradesh	1274	203	1071	214.2
15	Madras	1169	267	902	180.4
16	Manipur	38	37	1	0.2
17	Meghalaya	36	64	0	0
18	Orissa	688	141	547	109.4
19	Patna	1046	76	970	194
20	Punjab & Haryana	972	118	854	170.8
21	Rajasthan	1239	238	1001	200.2
22	Sikkim	21	17	4	0.8
23	Telangana	440	129	311	62.2
24	Tripura	78	66	12	2.4
25	Uttarakhand	184	52	132	26.4
	Total	17892	3477	14443	2888.6

