

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2696
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 4th AUGUST, 2021**

E-Court Project

2696. DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:

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 Tamilnadu; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending cases in a time bound manner?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(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. Out of 2992 court complexes Wide Area Network connectivity has been provided to 2945 court complexes. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores for eCourts Phase-II, the Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 1582.11 crore for implementation of the project.

With the computerization of 18,735 District and 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 18.77 crore pending and disposed cases and more than 14.61 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 those court complexes for which funds to the tune of Rs.28.88 crore has been released. During the pandemic period the High Courts heard 40,43,300 cases, while District and Subordinate Courts heard 74,15,981 cases over Video Conferencing up to 30/06/2021.

(d): As on 02.07.2021, a total number of 69,212 cases are pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As on 28.07.2021, as per data available on NJDG, total number of cases pending in Madras High Court are 5,82,903.

(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. 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 of Fast Track Courts for quick disposal of cases, use of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism and emphasis on human resource development.
