

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *185
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th DECEMBER, 2021

e-Courts Mission Mode Project

†*185. SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing e-Courts Mission Mode Project and if so, the details of targets set and the achievements made in this regard including the number of courts digitalized under the said project, State-wise including West Bengal;
- (b) the status of progress made in digitalization of subordinate courts, State/UT-wise including West Bengal; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union and State Governments and further plans to accelerate the adoption of e-courts system across the country including West Bengal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c)
OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 FOR 10TH DECEMBER
2021 REGARDING e-COURTS MISSION MODE PROJECT

(a) to (b): The eCourts Integrated Mission Mode Project is one of the National e-Governance projects being implemented in District and Subordinate Courts of the country. The eCommittee of Supreme Court of India, headed by a Supreme Court Judge, is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project and works in collaborative partnership with Department of Justice in this regard.

The eCourts Mission Mode Project (MMP) Phase-I was implemented during 2011-15. The Government approved the ongoing Phase II of the eCourts MMP in July 2015. A total 18,735 courts have been computerized till date. List of computerized courts including West Bengal is attached at Annexure-I.

Against the financial outlay of Rs. 1670 crore in the phase II of the project, the Government has released a sum of Rs. 1611.19 crore as on 03.12.2021 to various agencies involved in the implementation of the project. This includes a sum of Rs. 1151.84 crore released to various High Courts for this purpose.

The Phase-II of the Project seeks to ensure enhancement of ICT enablement of Courts and the salient initiatives are as enlisted:

- i. 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 OFC (Optical Fiber Cable), RF (Radio Frequency), VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal). So far, 2956 sites have been commissioned out of 2992 sites with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed (completing 98.7% sites). This forms the backbone for the

eCourts project ensuring data connectivity in courts across the length and breadth of the country.

- ii. Case Information Software (CIS) which forms the basis for the e court services is based on customized Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) which has been developed by NIC. Currently CIS National Core Version 3.2 is being implemented in District Courts and the CIS National Core Version 1.0 is being implemented for the High Courts.
- iii. A new software patch and user manual for COVID-19 management has also been developed. This tool helps in smart scheduling of cases.
- iv. 7 platforms have been created to provide real time information on case status, cause lists, judgements etc. to lawyers/ litigants through SMS Push and Pull (2,00,000 SMS sent daily), Email (2,50,000 sent daily), multilingual and tactile eCourts services Portal (35 lakh hits daily), JSC (Judicial Service centres) and Info Kiosks. In addition, Electronic Case Management Tools (ECMT) have been created with Mobile App for lawyers (total 68.04 lakh downloads till 1st November 2021) and JustIS app for judges (16,751 downloads till 2nd December 2021).
- v. National Service and Tracking of Electronic Processes (NSTEP) has been launched for technology enabled process serving and issuing of summons. It has currently been implemented in 17 High Courts.
- vi. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 computerised District & Subordinate Courts created as an online platform under the eCourts Project. It provides information relating to judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts of the country. Through the eCourts services platform currently litigants can access case status information in respect of over 19.76 crore cases and more than 15.99 crore orders/ judgments pertaining to

these computerized courts (as on 03.12.2021). Open APIs has been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants to access NJDG data to help tracking of government litigation and improve pendency monitoring and compliance. Recently, reasons for delay have been included in NJDG.

- vii. 15 Virtual Courts in 11 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 1.07 Crore cases have been handled by 15 virtual courts and online fine of Rs. 201 Crore has been realised till 03.12.2021. The Delhi High Court has set up 34 Digital Courts dealing with Negotiable Instruments Act cases.
- viii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 1,50,692 virtual hearings (as on 29.10.2021 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (55,24,021 hearings) and Subordinate Courts (1,01,77,289 hearings) have conducted 1.57 crore virtual hearings till 31st October 2021. Funds for 2506 Video Conferencing (VC) cabins and VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings.
- ix. Live Streaming of video conferencing of proceedings has been started in High Courts of Gujarat, Orissa and Karnataka. The Model Live Streaming Rules have been circulated amongst all the High Courts across the country for their suggestions, inputs and insights for better implementation of live streaming of court proceedings.
- x. New eFiling system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with advanced features like online submission of Vakalatnama, eSigning, online video recording of oath, online payment, filing of multiple IAs/application, Portfolio Management and bilingual mode etc.

- xi. To bridge the digital divide, funds have been released for setting up 235 eSewa Kendras at all High Courts and one District Court in every state. India's first e-Resource Center was inaugurated at Nagpur in Maharashtra. The e-Resource Centre "Nyay Kaushal" will facilitate e-filing and VC of cases in Supreme Court India, High Courts and District Courts across the country. Mobile e-Courts vehicles equipped with Wi-Fi and computers have started in Telangana and Uttarakhand.
- xii. A 'Judgment & Order Search' portal has been inaugurated for the convenience of its stakeholders in searching judgments easily. The new portal for judgments search is set to provide a repository for Judgments and Final Orders of the High Courts.
- xiii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 29 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 19 High Courts.

(c): Various steps have been taken by the Government and eCommittee of the Supreme Court to accelerate the adoption of e-Courts system across the country including West Bengal which include:

- i. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address issues of skill divide, a manual on E filing and a Brochure on "How to register for E Filing" has been made available in English, Hindi and 12 regional languages including Bengali for the use of the lawyers.
- ii. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on e-filing. This channel has garnered 15,300

subscribers with 1,70,881 views. This has helped advocates to acquire skills required for operating digital platforms with ease.

- iii. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes have covered nearly 3,02,614 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/District System Administrator (DSA), Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates through the 67 training/outreach programmes from May 2020 to November 2021.
- iv. A professional communication consultant agency was engaged in 2018-19 for assisting the eCourts PMU in developing and implementing an effective communication strategy and a coherent media plan for action, to effectively use various publicity tools and improve awareness about project outputs and eCourts Services. Posters, brochures and user manuals were designed, printed and distributed to all stakeholders across the country.
- v. Four eCourts campaigns were conducted through eSampark, NIC's platform for sharing informational and public service messages, on the NICNET email database during July – November 2018.
- vi. Two newsprint campaigns in English and Hindi were completed in November 2018. Newsprint campaigns in English, Hindi and 16 regional languages were completed during November 2018 – January 2019.
- vii. Radio campaign in Hindi and 10 regional languages disseminating awareness on eCourts Services through 30 seconds audio jingles were completed during January – March 2019.
- viii. Approximately 3.90 lakhs posters were printed in 20 different languages and dispatched to Common Service Centers during financial year 2019-20 for

spreading information about the e court services. SMS campaign was undertaken to reach about 32 crore citizens in order to inform them about eCourts services on app and portal in October 2019. Approximately 35,000 posters were put for litigants and lawyers to register their email and mobile number with eCourts were printed in 20 Indian languages. They were displayed at subordinate Courts for the information of the general public as well as the lawyers who visit these premises.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.*185 for 10/12/2021 regarding e-Courts Mission Mode Project. The High Court wise and State-wise list of digitized courts is as under:

Sr.No.	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	Total		3452	18735