

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2120
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th DECEMBER, 2021**

POCSO CASES

2120. SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that thousands of cases are pending due to lack of judicial courts across the country, if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue;**
- (b) the number of courts allocated and those presently functional, State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to set up fast track courts for prosecuting rape and POCSO cases across the country, if so, the number of such courts along with the number of under trial cases thereunder;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the number of these courts, if so, the details of new courts set up so far and if not, the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise; and**
- (e) whether the Government has proposed to increase the number of public prosecutors for law enforcement agencies, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The number of cases pending with various courts in the country is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Court	Pendency as on
1	Supreme Court of India	70,038 (08.11.2021)*
2	High Courts	56,45,617 (06.12.2021)**
3	District & Subordinate Courts	4,09,34,646 (06.12.2021)**

Source *Website of Supreme Court of India.

**National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

Disposal of cases pending in various courts is within the domain of judiciary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, complexity of facts involved, nature of evidence, co-operation of stake holders viz. bar, investigation agencies, witnesses and litigants and proper application of rules and procedures. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary. National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission 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 for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

(b): A statement showing the list of District and Subordinate Court Complexes as available at National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is at ***Annexure***.

(c) to (e): The Department of Justice is implementing a scheme for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 Exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and POCSO Act. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme started in October, 2019 which has been extended for further two years up to 31.03.2023 at a total cost of Rs. 1572.86 crore with Central share of Rs.971.70

crore. As per information provided by the High Courts for the month of October 2021, a total of 681 FTSCs including 381 exclusive POCSO courts are functional in 27 States/UTs across the country. Upto October 2021, these courts have disposed of 64217 cases, while 181689 cases are still pending.

Setting up of subordinate courts including Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and its functioning comes within the domain of the State Governments in consultation with the respective High Courts. The appointment of Public Prosecutors for conducting the criminal trials under the provisions of IPC and other special laws is done by the State Governments. However, Department of Legal Affairs in September 2019 requested the Chief Secretaries of all the States to ensure that special courts being setup to handle POCSO-related cases have adequate number of Special Public Prosecutors who are appointed under section 24(8) of Cr.PC with due regard to their qualifications as well as the orientation towards child rights.

Annexure**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2120 FOR ANSWER ON 10.12.2021 REGARDING POCSO CASES.**

Sr No	States/UTs	Total Districts	Total Court Complexes
1	Andaman and Nicobar	1	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	187
3	Assam	30	71
4	Bihar	37	79
5	Chandigarh	1	2
6	Chhattisgarh	23	89
7	Delhi	11	12
8	Diu and Daman	2	2
9	DNH at Silvasa	1	2
10	Goa	2	16
11	Gujarat	32	332
12	Haryana	21	58
13	Himachal Pradesh	11	50
14	Jammu and Kashmir	20	81
15	Jharkhand	24	24
16	Karnataka	30	205
17	Kerala	15	165
18	Ladakh	2	3
19	Madhya Pradesh	50	225
20	Maharashtra	40	478
21	Manipur	9	20
22	Meghalaya	9	10
23	Mizoram	3	9
24	Nagaland	4	5
25	Odisha	30	122
26	Puducherry	4	0
27	Punjab	22	68
28	Rajasthan	36	311
29	Sikkim	4	9
30	Tamil Nadu	32	265
31	Telangana	10	110
32	Tripura	8	24
33	Uttar Pradesh	74	170
34	Uttarakhand	13	61
35	West Bengal	22	89
Grand Total		646	3358

Source: National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)