

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2221
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 10th DECEMBER, 2021

e-Courts

2221. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY

Will the Minister of *Law and Justice* be pleased to state

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has established e-Courts in Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur;
- (b) if so, the status of such e-courts;
- (c) whether they are functioning efficiently, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans of establishing such e-Courts in other cities/States including that of Odisha; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a) to (c) : The Districts and Taluka Courts of Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur have been computerized under the eCourts Project and linked to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) status of cases in Jabalpur, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Raipur districts are as follows:

Cases as per NJDG as on 03.12.2021				
Sr No	District	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases	Total Cases
A	B	C	D	E=C+D
1	Jabalpur	38759	93864	132623
2	Jodhpur	5646	20094	25740
3	Jodhpur Metro	25720	76475	102195
4	Raipur	12562	61715	74277
5	Kamrup	3687	8708	12395
6	Kamrup Metro	22880	44156	67036

(d) to (e) : Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country including Odisha for Information and Communication Technology enablement of district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts including those located in Odisha have increased to 18,735 as on 01.12.2021. WAN connectivity has been provided to 98.7% of court complexes. New and user-friendly version of Case Information Software has been developed and deployed at all the computerized District and Subordinate Courts. All stakeholders including Judicial Officers can access information relating to judicial proceedings/ decisions of computerized District & Subordinate Courts and High Courts on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). As on 03.12.2021, litigants can access case status of over 19.76 crore cases and 15.99 crore orders/ judgements pertaining to these courts. 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 (JSC) in all computerized courts, eCourts Mobile App, email service, SMS push & pull services. An e-filing system introduced in the year 2018 has been upgraded to version 3.0 with advanced and user

friendly features. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3240 court complexes and 1272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID-19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, funds have been provided for setting up 235 e-SewaKendras at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgements/orders, court/case related information and eFiling facilities. Rs. 5.01 crore has been allocated for providing equipment in Video Conferencing cabins in various court complexes to facilitate virtual hearings. Rs. 12.12 crore has been allocated for 1732 Help desk counters for filing in various court complexes.

Fifteen Virtual Courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences. As on 03.12.2021, these courts have handled more than 1.07 crore cases and realised more than Rs.201.96 crore in fines. The Virtual Court in Odisha was started in August 2021.

Video conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Court heard 55,24,021 cases (totalling to 1.57 crore) till 31.10.2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court heard 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto 29.10.2021. The High Court of Orissa has heard 2,18,073 cases from 23.03.2020 to 31.10.2021 while the District Courts in Odisha have heard 1,81,653 cases from 01.03.2020 to 31.10.2021 (totalling to 3,99,726).

Live streaming of cases is functional from 02.08.2021 in High Court of Orissa. The High Court's e-Services Mobile App to help lawyers and litigants in availing cases and Court related information from the convenience of their smartphones was launched on 02.08.2021. Besides providing Case Status, Cause List, New Cases Filed, Judgment/Orders, Defect Status, Certified Copy Status, the Mobile App also features a live Display Board for all Benches and a Digital Notice Board of the Court. The 'Free Text Search' facility conceptualized by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for searching judgments and orders of the High Court has been integrated with the High Court's Mobile App for convenient access.

The High Court of Orissa has launched a Software Module called the Order Communication Portal (OCP) to facilitate secure and instantaneous communication of High Court's orders and judgments to Subordinate Courts in a paperless environment, thereby saving resources and time consumed in traditional methods of correspondence.
