

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *159
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 11th FEBRUARY, 2022**

Utilisation of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Process

***159. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to utilize blockchain technology and Artificial Intelligence to supplement judicial process and help reducing judicial delays, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps undertaken by the Government to ensure continuous upgradation of e-court project?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*159 FOR 11th FEBRUARY, 2022 REGARDING UTILISATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN JUDICIAL PROCESS

(a): Presently eCourts Phase II is under implementation since 2015. While Phase II is still underway, a need was felt for adoption of new cutting edge technology of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence for enhancing the efficiency of the justice delivery system. To explore the use of AI in judicial domain, the Supreme Court of India has constituted Artificial Intelligence Committee which has mainly identified application of AI technology in Translation of judicial documents; Legal research assistance and Process automation.

(b): The salient ongoing steps taken to upgrade the eCourts project includes:

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, 2960 courts sites have been commissioned (as on 07.02.2022) with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed. This forms the backbone for 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 to help in smart scheduling of cases.
- iv. National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) is a database of orders, judgments and cases, 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. Litigants can access case status information in respect of over 19.81 crore cases and more than 16.61 crore orders / judgments pertaining to these computerized (as on 01.02.2022). Open APIs have been introduced in 2020 to allow Central and State Governments and institutional litigants including local bodies to access NJDG data to improve pendency monitoring and compliance.

- v. As part of eCourts project, 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 72.20 lakh downloads till 3rd January 2022) and JustIS app for judges (16,961 downloads till 2nd February 2022). JustIS mobile app is now available in iOS as well.
- vi. 17 Virtual Courts in 13 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. More than 1.24 crore cases have been handled by 17 virtual courts and in more than 21 lakhs (21,45,341) cases online fine of more than Rs. 221 crore has been realised till 02.02.2022.
- vii. The Supreme Court of India emerged as a global leader by conducting 1,81,909 hearings (till 08.01.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period). The High Courts (57,39,966 cases and Subordinate Courts (1,08,36,087 cases) have conducted 1.65 crore virtual hearings till 30.11.2021. VC facilities have also been enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. Funds for 2506 VC cabins and VC equipment for 14,443

court rooms have also been released. 1500 VC licenses have been procured to promote virtual hearings. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers.

- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features like new dashboard including the options of my partners, Case Filing, Vakalatnama, pleading, e-payments, applications and case portfolio management. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 17 high Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.12.2021.
- ix. e-Filing of cases requires the option for electronic payment of fees which includes court fees, fines and penalties which are directly payable to the Consolidated Fund. Online payment of court fees, fines, penalties and judicial deposits has been initiated through <https://pay.ecourts.gov.in>. A total of 16 High Courts have implemented ePayments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.12.2021.
- x. eSewa Kendras have been rolled out to bridge the digital divide by providing e filing services to lawyers and litigants. Government has released Rs. 12.54 crore for setting up eSewa Kendras. As on 31.12.2021, 451 eSewa Kendra's have been made functional in District Courts under 25 High Courts.
- xi. 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 26 States/ UTs.
- xii. A new "Judgment Search" portal has been started with features such as search by Bench, Case Type, Case Number, Year, Petitioner/ Respondent Name, Judge Name, Act, Section, Decision:

From Date, To Date and Full Text Search. This facility is being provided free of cost to all.

- xiii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public 30 LED Display Message Sign Board System called Justice Clocks, have been installed in 20 High Courts.
- xiv. Towards creating widespread awareness and familiarization of eFiling and eCourts services and to address “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 for the use of the lawyers. A YouTube channel has been created in the name of the e Court services with video tutorials on e-filing. The eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India has conducted trainings and awareness programmes on the ICT services. These programmes have covered nearly 3,60,993 stakeholders, including High Court Judges, Judges of the District Judiciary, Court Staff, Master Trainers among Judges/DSA, Technical Staff of High Courts, and Advocates.
