

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

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4956.
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1st April, 2022**

VIRTUAL HEARING OF CASES

†4956. SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA:

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

- (a) the number of cases disposed in the lower courts of the country through digital/virtual mode, State/UT-wise including Odisha; and**
(b) whether the Government has assessed the reaction of the people of the country/lawyers/judicial officials with regard to digital hearing of cases in lower courts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The number of cases disposed in the lower courts of the country during the Covid lockdown through digital/virtual mode, State/UT-wise including Odisha is at *Annexure*.

(b): No, Sir. Though no evaluation exercise has been made in this regard, however, Video-Conferencing emerged as the mainstay of the Courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings when normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible. Since Covid lockdown started, the District courts heard 1,11,40,223 cases while the High Court heard 60,21,688 cases (totalling 1.71 crore) till 31.01.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court held 2,18,891 hearings till 14.03.2022 since the beginning of lockdown period. To bring about uniformity and standardization in the conduct of Video Conferencing (VC), an overarching order was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme

Court of India on 6th April 2020 which gave legal sanctity and validity to the court hearings done through VC. Further, VC rules were framed by a 5-judge committee which was circulated to all the High Courts for adoption after local contextualization. A total of 23 High Courts have implemented Video Conferencing rules. One video conference equipment each has been provided to all Court Complexes including taluk level courts and additionally funds have been sanctioned for additional VC equipment for 14,443 court rooms. Funds for setting up 2506 VC Cabins have been made available. Additional 1500 VC Licenses have been acquired. VC facilities are already enabled between 3240 court complexes and corresponding 1272 jails. A sum of Rs. 7.60 crore has been released for procurement of 1732 Document Visualizers. Virtual hearing of the cases by the Courts has helped the entire legal ecosystem including the litigants and lawyers as it helps them to appear before the court from any location of their choice thus leading to considerable saving of time and money.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4956 FOR ANSWER ON 01.04.2022 REGARDING VIRTUAL HEARING OF CASES.

S. No	High Court	Total Number of cases dealt on video conferencing in District Courts		
		From Date	To Date	Total Cases
1	Allahabad	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	2621390
2	Andhra Pradesh	26-3-2020	31-10-2021	266489
3	Bombay	1-1-2022	31-1-2022	8058
4	Calcutta	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	67807
5	Chhattisgarh	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	29929
6	Delhi	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	2587120
7	Gauhati - Arunachal Pradesh	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	8128
8	Gauhati - Assam	26-3-2020	31-1-2022	251096
9	Gauhati - Mizoram	23-3-2020	31-1-2022	13268
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	541
11	Gujarat	23-3-2020	31-12-2021	147956
12	Himachal Pradesh	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	32890
13	Jammu and Kashmir	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	224981
14	Jharkhand	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	629002
15	Karnataka	23-3-2020	31-1-2022	107031
16	Kerala	24-3-2020	31-1-2022	383815
17	Madhya Pradesh	23-3-2020	31-12-2021	657363
18	Madras	26-3-2020	31-1-2022	288320
19	Manipur*	15-4-2020	30-11-2021	9423
20	Meghalaya	22-3-2022	31-1-2022	9988
21	Orissa	19-3-2020	31-1-2022	200821
22	Patna	24-3-2020	31-1-2022	1635118
23	Punjab and Haryana	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	574578
24	Rajasthan	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	165938
25	Sikkim	24-3-2020	14-11-2021	6283
26	Telangana	22-3-2020	31-12-2021	163695
27	Tripura	22-3-2020	31-1-2022	9903
28	Uttarakhand	15-4-2020	31-1-2022	39292