

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3302  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**DISPOSAL OF CASES**

**3302. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:  
SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:  
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:**

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

- (a) the details of the pending cases related to criminal and civil matters in Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts separately;**
- (b) the percentage of disposal of cases by these courts during the last five years and the current year;**
- (c) whether a number of cases related to bail applications are lying pending on account of delay in their disposal in various High Courts including High Court of Bombay and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether any measures/steps have been/are being taken by the Government to reduce the burden of cases from the courts and to ensure the disposal of cases in faster way specially the long pending cases while celebrating the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a):** The details of the pending cases related to criminal and civil matters in Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts is as under:-

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Court</b>	<b>Criminal Cases</b>	<b>Civil Cases</b>
1	Supreme Court of India*	15,076	56,365
2	High Courts**	16,55,953	42,99,954
3	District & Subordinate Courts**	3,07,55,696	1,05,97,546

\*as on 02.08.2022 \*\*as on 29.07.2022.

(b): As per information received from Supreme Court of India, the percentage of disposal of cases by Supreme Court of India during the last five years and the current year is as under:-

Year	Cases Disposed	Cases pending at the beginning of the year	Percentage disposal of cases = (Disposed/Pendency)*100
2017	63053	62537	100.82%
2018	37470	55588	67.40%
2019	41100	57346	71.67%
2020	20670	59859	34.53%
2021	24586	65086	37.77%
2022 (till 31.07.2022)	17751	70239	25.27%

As per information received from Supreme Court of India, the percentage of disposal of cases by High Courts and District & Subordinate Courts during the last five years and the current year is at *Annexure-I* and *Annexure-II* respectively.

(c): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) & (e): Disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary. No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. Government has no direct role in disposal of cases in courts. 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.

The major steps taken during the last eight years under various initiatives are as follows:

(i) **Improving infrastructure for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts:** As on date, Rs. 9013.21 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 20,993 as on 30.06.2022 and number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 18,502 as on 30.06.2022 under this scheme. In addition, 2,677 court halls and 1,659 residential units are under construction (as per Nyaya Vikas Portal). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary has been extended till 2025-26 at a total cost of Rs. 9,000 crore, out of which central share will be Rs. 5,307 crore. Besides, construction of Court Halls and Residential Units, it would also cover construction of lawyer's halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms.

(ii) **Leveraging Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improved justice delivery:** Government has been implementing the e-Courts Mission Mode Project throughout the country for information and communication technology enablement of

district and subordinate courts. Number of computerized District & Subordinate courts has increased to 18,735 so far. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.3% 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 04.07.2022, litigants can access case status of over 20.86 crore cases and 18.02 crore order/judgments 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. Video Conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. With a view to handle the COVID- 19 challenges better and to make the transition to virtual hearings smoother, 500 e-Sewa Kendras have been set up at court complexes to facilitate lawyers and litigants needing assistance ranging from case status, getting judgments/orders, court/case related information and e-filing 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 1,732 Help desk counters for e-filing in various court complexes.

Twenty virtual courts have been set up in 16 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and West Bengal to try traffic offences. As on 03.03.2022, these courts have handled more than 1.69 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 271.48 crore in fines.

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

1,28,76,549 cases while the High Court heard 63,76,561 cases (totalling 1.92 crore) till 30.04.2022 using video conferencing. The Supreme Court had 2,61,338 hearings since the lockdown period upto 13.06.2022.

**(iii) Filling up of vacant positions in Supreme Court, High Courts and District and Subordinate Courts:** From 01.05.2014 to 15.07.2022, 46 judges were appointed in Supreme Court. 769 new judges were appointed and 619 additional judges were made permanent in the High Courts. Sanctioned strength of judges of High Courts has been increased from 906 in May, 2014 to 1,108 currently. Sanctioned and working strength of judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts has increased as follows:

As on	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength
31.12.2013	19,518	15,115
29.07.2022	24,631	19,288

However, filling up of vacancies in Subordinate judiciary falls within the domain of the State Governments and High Courts concerned.

**(iv) Reduction in Pendency through / follow up by Arrears Committees:** In pursuance of Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Judges too. Arrears Committee has been constituted in the Supreme Court to formulate steps to reduce pendency of cases in High Courts and District Courts. In the past, Minister of Law & Justice has taken up the matter with Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers drawing their attention to cases pending for more than five years and to take up pendency reduction campaign. The Department has developed an online portal for reporting by all High Courts on the compliance of Arrears Eradication Scheme guidelines of the Malimath Committee Report.

**(v) Emphasis on Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Commercial Courts Act, 2015 (as amended on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2018) stipulates mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act,

1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.

**(vi) Initiatives to Fast Track Special Type of Cases:** The Fourteenth Finance Commission endorsed the proposal of the Government to strengthen the judicial system in States which included, inter-alia, establishing Fast Track Courts for cases of heinous crimes; cases involving senior citizens, women, children etc., and urged the State Governments to use the additional fiscal space provided in the form of enhanced tax devolution from 32% to 42% to meet such requirements. As on 31.5.2022, 892 Fast Track Courts are functional for heinous crimes, crimes against women and children etc. To fast track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs (1 each in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and 2 in NCT of Delhi). Further, Government has approved a scheme for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape under IPC and crimes under POCSO Act. As on date, 28 States/UTs have joined the scheme for setting up of 842 FTSCs including 363 'exclusive POCSO Courts'. Rs.140 crore was released in the financial year 2019-20, Rs. 160 crore has been released during the financial year 2020-21 and Rs. 134.557 crore has been released during the financial year 2021-22 for the scheme. 728 FTSC are functional 408 exclusive POCSO Courts, which disposed 1,02,344 cases as on 30.6.2022.

**(vii)** In addition, to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has recently amended various laws like the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3302 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2022 REGARDING DISPOSAL OF CASES.**

S. No.	Name of High Courts	Year 2017		Year 2018		Year 2019		Year 2020		Year 2021		Year 2022	
		Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2017	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2018	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2019	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2020	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2021	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2022
1	Allahabad	301259	32.89	298035	32.76	319573	34.02	169158	17.91	243392	24.51	83991	8.14
2	Andhra Pradesh	62047	21.27	66513	20.43	21516	12.47	26572	13.73	31860	15.50	9196	4.11
3	Telangana					35514	18.96	22701	11.00				
4	Bombay	93917	35.89	91690	35.43	90757	31.53	34651	11.31	57835	17.78	24428	6.92
5	Calcutta	62209	28.40	50979	22.90	63148	27.27	24785	10.82	52466	22.10	17614	7.50
6	Chhattisgarh	31493	56.60	37215	62.59	39488	62.11	23678	34.16	30809	40.63	8046	9.93
7	Delhi	39779	58.41	44096	62.74	41013	55.02	19578	24.19	27490	30.12	11979	11.78
8	Gujarat	87164	85.85	58765	56.91	65424	56.91	43394	33.59	58537	40.89	17391	11.22
9	Gauhati	16097	52.86	14552	43.48	14154	42.32	6755	18.14	9359	22.83	3158	7.12
10	Meghalaya	673	96.14	737	105.74	1008	128.90	458	60.50	649	61.00	327	27.23
11	Manipur	1325	40.32	2527	68.86	2265	73.97	717	29.05	1151	40.40	424	13.18
12	Tripura	3128	107.20	2401	87.02	3650	122.61	2434	94.12	2800	119.50	728	41.94
13	Himachal Pradesh	21233	71.08	23116	73.71	27752	76.71	22203	40.78	30054	40.53	5891	7.15
14	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	14386	24.22	14875	23.97	10223	15.96	19431	27.10	23617	39.92	2705	5.60
15	Jharkhand	32632	38.05	39822	44.30	45298	50.94	28337	33.23	40588	46.00	12533	14.16
16	Karnataka	100279	36.12	102451	31.65	231024	64.60	161110	59.25	89988	36.03	21110	8.57
17	Kerala	80255	48.13	86341	48.71	82070	42.58	50590	25.70	57003	26.82	17790	7.85
18	Madhya Pradesh	120310	41.57	109766	35.71	110626	33.38	77032	21.52	103415	26.95	35412	8.67
19	Madras	142084	47.74	162081	53.58	179144	61.14	105586	38.72	146244	54.28	47307	18.14
20	Orissa	74798	44.55	63236	37.52	93224	57.81	61335	40.72	105525	60.97	35396	18.05
21	Patna	98191	73.03	117984	81.56	117707	76.69	51637	29.95	60822	33.89	26961	11.93
22	Punjab & Haryana	105966	35.05	122972	37.09	128085	37.98	71835	20.30	87310	23.05	28567	6.32

23	Rajasthan	112573	44.19	102529	39.14	172329	60.46	84300	18.33	124930	24.09	43372	7.74
24	Sikkim	190	111.76	150	71.43	223	88.49	136	58.12	217	90.79	26	14.53
25	Uttarakhand	22541	70.43	18993	63.26	21834	64.13	13496	38.12	14703	38.77	3638	8.88
	Total	<b>1624529</b>	<b>40.12</b>	<b>1631826</b>	<b>38.51</b>	<b>1917049</b>	<b>43.11</b>	<b>1121873</b>	<b>23.94</b>	<b>1441098</b>	<b>29.01</b>	<b>480289</b>	<b>9.05</b>



**Annexure-II**

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3302 FOR ANSWER ON 05.08.2022 REGARDING DISPOSAL OF CASES.**

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	Year 2017		Year 2018		Year 2019		Year 2020		Year 2021		Year 2022	
		Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2017	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2018	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2019	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2020	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2021	Disposed of Cases in whole year	% of Disposed of Cases w.r.t. Opening Balance as on 01.01.2022
1	Uttar Pradesh	3288866	55.00	3282885	51.43	3426942	49.04	2274687	29.13	3955646	45.08	1181122	11.85
2	Andhra Pradesh	760582	70.56	741390	71.23	364947	67.83	166918	29.43	244105	37.60	101322	12.90
3	Telangana					331963	62.59	133518	23.04	368092	53.22	188604	23.86
4	Maharashtra	2378096	73.41	2196271	65.76	1877895	53.18	752986	19.70	1388604	30.83	472576	9.84
5	Goa	34814	82.74	36235	92.32	32634	76.28	14130	28.81	32953	55.88	8321	14.01
6	Daman and Diu & Silvassa	3302	60.19	4001	75.56	4081	74.63	2225	41.64	3875	61.69	606* 576**	21.32* 15.65**
7	West Bengal	1694427	62.10	1016319	47.46	683238	35.03	307850	15.03	476809	21.96	157492	6.61
8	A & N Island	7776	88.70	7284	78.94	8563	83.71	4054	41.39	10124	102.90	1711	18.36
9	Chhattisgarh	208498	71.79	229548	82.77	214399	80.17	78278	27.46	195240	58.83	57953	15.17
10	Delhi	740779	116.45	808156	108.09	814555	97.57	245879	27.87	353683	34.72	113064	9.18
11	Gujarat	1386529	76.09	1418688	87.59	1142383	69.07	394455	24.72	1448516	75.52	368279	18.86
12	Assam	313617	121.26	311150	112.66	254823	87.28	94574	31.37	182346	50.55	53967	13.00
13	Nagaland	2957	66.75	3514	72.50	5728	114.70	2488	74.03	3921	93.22	1452	31.78
14	Meghalaya	12316	80.82	8517	57.64	7890	58.08	3163	23.13	5232	33.05	1399	8.74
15	Manipur	5256	75.32	4379	64.41	3717	59.80	1747	26.81	1411	20.28	684	8.36
16	Tripura	169763	11.49	139931	130.67	90786	155.83	26095	94.92	55417	124.10	19396	45.01
17	Mizoram	12497	267.89	12563	244.04	15107	245.48	11524	175.32	11236	177.28	3298	52.32
18	Arunachal Pradesh	12165	83.42	7499	73.29	7735	80.14	4144	37.50	8156	64.47	2232	15.59

19	Himachal Pradesh	317251	134.89	343667	146.47	483869	188.54	187035	63.68	384726	91.41	114948	24.73
20	Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh	110825	75.91	146194	90.43	81520	49.85	62465	36.16	109071	57.44	39288	18.17
21	Jharkhand	157765	46.22	194200	56.76	187370	54.61	108247	29.34	143805	33.67	66953	13.64
22	Karnataka	1144693	84.03	1120397	78.19	1272673	85.15	961619	62.81	1848768	108.16	538012	30.21
23	Kerala	983409	66.33	961840	59.26	1005350	6.84	365958	22.57	816047	39.06	247285	11.84
24	Lakshadweep	191	53.50	237	66.95	201	55.22	238	59.95	284	62.69	76	16.17
25	Madhya Pradesh	1218909	96.69	1386280	104.03	1207541	89.14	681333	46.81	1122497	64.99	277013	14.42
26	Tamil Nadu	1015322	94.71	906184	85.02	849240	78.32	429767	37.79	646592	51.16	168522	12.65
27	Puducherry	16770	59.56	14052	52.18	12137	44.69	6533	21.71	14628	43.70	3471	10.52
28	Orissa	365602	33.95	255005	21.63	296535	22.49	126077	8.79	228609	14.36	63941	3.57
29	Bihar	344981	16.21	361063	16.24	405347	16.20	174478	6.43	354099	11.74	118219	3.61
30	Punjab	718292	142.43	712529	124.39	670175	111.32	333826	51.97	582027	68.98	181457	19.19
31	Haryana	579631	105.82	628939	97.75	614384	84.38	281734	33.01	558068	50.67	205990	15.68
32	Chandigarh	101617	261.18	139172	333.79	146256	259.52	35294	56.06	55242	78.21	12123	16.75
33	Rajasthan	1514181	96.20	1468290	89.78	1508232	87.06	786604	44.45	1192950	61.25	360812	16.68
34	Sikkim	2583	180.13	2440	173.67	1906	157.78	987	86.43	1807	124.19	363	22.46
35	Uttarakhand	237197	124.22	288999	137.61	341452	146.96	143974	73.73	214860	86.17	48466	16.88
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19861459</b>	<b>70.24</b>	<b>19157818</b>	<b>66.62</b>	<b>18371574</b>	<b>60.65</b>	<b>9204884</b>	<b>28.50</b>	<b>17019446</b>	<b>45.66</b>	<b>5180993</b>	<b>12.62</b>

