

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 853
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26TH JULY, 2024

e-Courts Projects

853. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai:

Shri Manoj Tiwari:

Shri Murari Lal Meena:

Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram:

Shri Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy:

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi:

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government under the various phases of the e-Courts project;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized for e-Court project, year and State-wise;
- (c) the details of the implementation status of the e-Courts project, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (d) the number of e-Court have been opened/functioning in Tripura and Rajasthan;
- (e) the number of courts having requisite digital infrastructure and those still to be digitalized during the said period, State-wise; and
- (f) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the impact of the e-Courts project on improving judicial efficiency and transparency, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)**

(a) & (b) :As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Mission Mode Project is under implementation for Information and Communication

Technologies (ICT) development of the Indian Judiciary based on the “National Policy and Action Plan for Implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary”. This project is being implemented by the Department of Justice, in close coordination with the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India.

2. The phase I of the eCourts Mission Mode Project was implemented during 2011-2015, which focused on the basics of computerisation like setting up computer hardware, ensuring internet connectivity, and operationalizing the e-Courts platform. Against the financial outlay of Rs.935 crore, a total expenditure of Rs.639.41 crore was incurred. The Following initiatives were undertaken in this phase:

- i. 14,249 District and Subordinate courts were computerized.
- ii. LAN was installed at 13,683 courts, hardware provided in 13,436 courts and software was installed in 13,672 courts.
- iii. Laptops were provided to 14,309 judicial officers and change management exercise completed in all High Courts.
- iv. Over 14,000 Judicial Officers were trained in the use of UBUNTU-Linux Operating System.
- v. More than 3900 court staff were trained in Case Information System (CIS) as System Administrators.
- vi. Video Conferencing facility was operationalised between 493 court complexes & 347 corresponding jails.

3. The Phase II of the eCourts Mission Mode Project was implemented during 2015-2023, which focused mainly on ICT enablement of District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against the financial outlay of Rs.1670 crores, an amount of Rs. 1668.43 crore was spent. Till 2023, 18,735 courts have been computerized. The following initiatives have been undertaken to make justice accessible and available for all stakeholders through

digitization of legal procedures, thereby enhancing efficiency and transparency in the legal system: -

- i. Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, connectivity has been provided to 99.4% (2977 out of earmarked 2992) of total Court Complexes across India with 10 Mbps to 100 Mbps bandwidth speed.
- ii. 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 26.044 crore cases and more than 26.047 crore orders / judgments (as on 01.07.2024).
- iii. Case Information Software (CIS) based on customized Free and Open-Source Software (FOSS) has been developed. 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.
- iv. 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 2.42 crore downloads till 31.05.2024) and JustIS app for judges (19,893 downloads till 31.05.2024).
- v. India has emerged as a global leader in conducting court hearing through Video Conferencing. The District & Subordinate courts heard 2,33,67,497 cases while the High Courts heard 86,35,710 cases (totalling 3.20 crore) till 31.05.2024 using video conferencing system. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India 7,54,443 hearings through video conferencing till 04.06.2024.

- vi. Live Streaming of court proceedings has been started in 8 High Courts & Constitutional Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India thus allowing media and other interested persons to join the proceedings.
- vii. 28 Virtual Courts in 21 States/UTs have been operationalized to handle traffic challan cases. Over 5.08 crore cases have been handled by 28 virtual courts and in over 54 lakhs (54,72,772) cases, online fine of more than Rs. 561.09 crore has been realized till 31.05.2024.
- viii. New e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out for the electronic filing of legal papers with upgraded features. Draft eFiling rules have been formulated and circulated to the High Courts for adoption. A total of 25 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing as on 31.05.2024.
- 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. A total of 22 High Courts have implemented e-payments in their respective jurisdictions. The Court Fees Act has been amended in 23 High Courts till 31.05.2024.
- x. To bridge the digital divide, 1057 eSewa Kendras have been rolled out with the intention of facilitating the lawyer or litigant who needs any kind of assistance ranging from information to facilitation and eFiling. It also assists the litigants in accessing online eCourts services and acts as a saviour for those who cannot afford the technology or are located in far-flung areas. It also aids to addresses the challenges caused by illiteracy among citizens at large and provides benefits in terms of saving time, avoidance of exertion, travelling long distances, and saving cost by offering facilities of e-filing of cases across the country, to conduct the hearing virtually, scanning, accessing e-Courts services etc.
- xi. 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.

- xii. To make effective use of database created through National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and to make the information available to public, LED Display Message Sign Board System called “Justice Clock” have been installed. The purpose of Justice Clock is to bring awareness to the public about the Justice Sector. A total of 39 Justice Clocks in 25 High Courts have been installed. A Virtual Justice Clock is also hosted online.

4. As Phase II of eCourts Mission Mode Project was coming to an end, the Cabinet on 13.09.2023 has approved Phase-III of eCourts Project, with a budgetary outlay of Rs.7,210 crore for a period of 4 years starting from 2023 onwards. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitization of the entire court records including legacy records and by bringing in universalization of e-Filing/ e-Payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras. eCourts Phase III intends to put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritizing cases. The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary, thus providing a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. The project envisages a smoother user experience by building a “smart” ecosystem. The eCourts Phase-III may thus prove to be a game changer in ensuring ease of justice by making the Court experience convenient, inexpensive and hassle free to all the citizens of the country. The various components of eCourts Phase III including digitization of 3108 crore pages of legacy records, cloud infrastructure, 4400 fully functional eSewa Kendras in all court complexes, and use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning. The

funds allocated and utilized under eCourts project for Phase-II (2015-2023) are given at Annexure I and Phase-III (FY 2023-24) is given at Annexure II.

(c) to (e) :The details of implementation status of eCourts project (including Rajasthan and Tripura) are given at Annexure III. As per the approved DPR of the eCourts Phase III, there is a provision for computerization of 2500 new courts at a cost estimate of Rs. 426.25 crore.

(f) :Yes, Sir. Third-Party Evaluation has been conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for eCourts Project Phase-I and Phase-II and key findings are as follows:

- The eCourts Project has led to an increase in the total number of cases filed in the courts and helped with easier access to information through online portals and mobile applications.
- A high level of satisfaction was expressed with the access and quality of the various ICT facilities provided under the eCourts project.
- The procurement process by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India is well planned and all payments are received on time.
- Judges are satisfied with the improvement in court time management and transparency of information that has resulted from implementation of eCourts project.
- 90-100% of sample courts have provision of computers hardware and have installed Case Information System (CIS).
- High proportion of judges and court officials had received training in the use of CIS, NJDG and hardware. Almost all respondents were of the opinion that the trainings were very useful.
- Services like Case Information System (CIS), JustIS mobile app and The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) website are used very often and have an easy user interface.

- Majority of judges and court official feels that eCourts project has reduced pendency of cases because of easy access to cases laws resulting in better research.
- The pendency of cases over 5 years have displayed slow but steady decline over the years.
- Since 2017, a sharp increase in the clearance rate of district courts is also noticed.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding-Courts projects. The details of fund released/utilized under eCourts Project Phase-II (2015-2023) are as under:

Sr. No	High Courts	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23#	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	Allahabad	31.14	31.14	20.88	20.88	20.57	20.27	8.07	7.96	15.04	13.63	13.79	10.22			0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh											1.96	1.96			0	0
3	Bombay	30.39	30.39	38.25	38.24	47.22	47.18	0.52	0.52	0	0	8.86	8.86			0	0
4	Calcutta	12.14	11.06	9.17	8.89	10.72	3.95	0.13	0.12	0	0	4.93	2.79			0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3.82	3.82	6.03	6.03	9.34	9.34	1.33	1.33	4.44	4.44	2.34	2.34			0	0
6	Delhi	5.87	5.87	5.41	5.41	8.97	8.95	3.54	3.54	0	0	3	2.85			0	0
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	0.59	0.59	4.33	4.29	1.37	1.37	2.85	2.85	0.98	0.98	1.52	1.52	1.26	1.18	0	0
8	Gauhati (Assam)	5.19	5.19	25.47	25.47	8.13	8.13	8.7	8.7	13.68	13.68	6.11	6.02	3.49	3.48	0	0
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	0.71	0.71	3.01	2.95	2.47	2.47	0.15	0.15	0.51	0.43	0.72	0.69	0.3	0.25	0	0
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	0.77	0.77	2.31	2.31	1.83	1.83	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	0.83	0.83	0.84	0.84	0	0
11	Gujarat*	11.23	11.23	18.32	17.17	29.06	23.84	10.73	9.88	0	0	3.48	3.09			0	0
12	Himachal Pradesh	1.79	1.79	3.21	3.21	4.05	4.03	0.13	0.13	0	0	2	1.78			0	0
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1.84	1.84	5.29	5.29	10.59	10.59	0.26	0.26	0	0	1	1			0	0
14	Jharkhand	3.2	3.2	5.09	5.09	2.92	2.92	4.53	4.53	5.53	5.53	2.98	2.84			0	0
15	Karnataka	11.86	11.86	17.43	17.43	22.04	22.04	0.61	0.61	9.15	9.15	4.29	4.29			0	0
16	Kerala	5.53	5.53	8.32	8.32	14.73	14.73	4.61	4.61	0	0	2.83	2.83	1.58	1.58	0	0
17	Madhya Pradesh	9.73	9.73	23.93	23.93	22.51	22.51	0.39	0.39	11.21	11.07	6.28	6.21			0	0
18	Madras	10.24	10.24	24.62	24.62	25.45	24.32	5.11	4.26	0	0	4.73	4			0	0
19	Manipur	0.53	0.53	4.24	4.23	1.19	1.18	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.6	1.3	1.28	0.76	0.75	0	0
20	Meghalaya	0.19	0.19	3.26	3.26	3.65	3.65	0.62	0.62	0.92	0.88	2.32	2.11	2.23	1.76	0	0
21	Orissa	7.57	7.57	7.71	7.71	12.7	12.47	1.59	1.48	13.46	13.09	3.37	3.31			0	0
22	Patna	8.04	8.04	26.41	26.38	8.72	8.27	0.13	0.07	7.08	6.4	5.44	5.26			0	0
23	Punjab & Haryana	11.63	11.63	17.92	17.92	11.54	11.54	8.49	8.49	0	0	4.55	4.55			0	0
24	Rajasthan	9.97	9.97	23.04	23.03	25.05	25.05	3.01	3.01	1.29	1.29	10.58	10.57	1.62	1.62	0	0
25	Sikkim	0.18	0.18	1.8	1.75	1.4	1.39	0.8	0.78	1.61	1.18	1.01	0.97	0.77	0.6	0	0
26	Telangana & Andhra Pradesh**	13.9	13.9	14.31	14.24	33.95	32.37	8.13	8.13	0	0	0	0			0	0
27	Telangana											1.79	1.6			0	0
28	Tripura	1.2	1.2	4.38	4.38	2.86	2.86	1.77	1.77	2.24	2.23	4.44	4.25	0.96	0.87	0	0
29	Uttarakhand	2.98	2.98	2.66	2.66	4.6	4.49	0.13	0.13	0	0	1.28	1.12			0	0
	Total	202.23	201.15	326.79	325.1	347.65	331.75	77.71	75.68	88.44	85.29	107.74	99.15	13.81	12.92	0	0

*Gujarat High Court surrendered Rs.13.12 Cr.Total utilization included surrender funds.

**Funds released erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Court, and both the states shared the available funds in the ration of 58:42 respectively

Funds under the eCourts Phase-II were exhausted and the DPR was under preparation by the eCommittee, SCI. Hence, no funds were released during FY 2022-23.

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding Courts projects. The details of fund released/utilized under Courts Project Phase-III (FY 2023-24) is as under:

Sr. No.	High Courts	2023-24	
		Released	Utilized
1	Allahabad	95.87	95.87
2	Andhra Pradesh	25.44	25.44
3	Bombay	69.54	69.54
4	Calcutta	16.73	16.73
5	Chhattisgarh	16.27	16.27
6	Delhi	17.89	17.89
7	Gauhati (Arunachal Pradesh)	2.03	2.03
8	Gauhati (Assam)	24.97	24.97
9	Gauhati (Mizoram)	3.12	3.12
10	Gauhati (Nagaland)	1.79	1.79
11	Gujarat	27.72	27.72
12	Himachal Pradesh	6.06	6.06
13	Jammu & Kashmir	6.52	6.52
14	Jharkhand	10.59	10.59
15	Karnataka	32.37	32.37
16	Kerala	15.40	15.40
17	Madhya Pradesh	22.90	22.90
18	Madras	90.69	90.69
19	Manipur	11.12	11.12
20	Meghalaya	3.33	3.33
21	Orissa	6.77	6.77
22	Patna	32.43	32.43
23	Punjab & Haryana	14.58	14.58
24	Rajasthan	19.80	19.80
25	Sikkim	1.71	1.71
26	Telangana	22.03	22.03
27	Tripura	0.53	0.53
28	Uttarakhand	13.68	13.68
Total		611.88	611.88

Annexure-III

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.853 for 26/07/2024 regarding implementation Status of e-Courts project. The details of court complex and implementation of eCourts including Rajasthan and Tripura are as under:

S.No	High Court	State	Court Complexes	Courts
1	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	180	2222
2	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	218	617
3	Bombay	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	3
		Daman and Diu	2	2
		Goa	17	39
		Maharashtra	471	2157
4	Calcutta	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	14
		West Bengal	89	827
5	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	93	434
6	Delhi	Delhi	6	681
7	Gauhati	Arunachal Pradesh	14	28
		Assam	74	408
		Mizoram	8	69
		Nagaland	11	37
8	Gujarat	Gujarat	376	1268
9	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	50	162
10	Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh	86	218
11	Jharkhand	Jharkhand	28	447
12	Karnataka	Karnataka	207	1031
13	Kerala	Kerala	158	484
		Lakshadweep	1	3
14	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	213	1363
15	Madras	Puducherry	4	24
		Tamil Nadu	263	1124
16	Manipur	Manipur	17	38
17	Meghalaya	Meghalaya	7	42
18	Orissa	Odisha	185	686
19	Patna	Bihar	84	1142
20	Punjab & Haryana	Chandigarh	1	30
		Haryana	53	500
		Punjab	64	541
21	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	247	1240
22	Sikkim	Sikkim	8	23
23	Telangana	Telangana	129	476
24	Tripura	Tripura	14	84
25	Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand	69	271
	Total		3452	18735