

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 856**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 26<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2024**

**e-Court Mission**

**856. SHRI C N ANNADURAI:  
SHRI NAVASKANI K:  
SHRI SELVAM G:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented Phase-II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, if so, the financial outlay and the total expenditure incurred for implementation of this project;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop e-Courts through Phase-III for operation of various courts;
- (c) if so, details thereof including the total outlay in Phase-III of the e-Courts project including virtual hearings, establishment of virtual benches of the High Courts etc., State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of usefulness of Phase-I and Phase-II of the E-courts Mission Mode Project, if so, the details and outcome of the assessment and steps taken thereon; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any standard operating procedure for the implementation of the Phase-III of e-Courts project, 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) Yes, Sir. The Government has implemented eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase-II during 2015-2023, which focused mainly on ICT enablement of

District & Subordinate Courts and various citizen centric initiatives. Against an outlay of Rs.1670 crore, a sum of Rs. 1668.43 crore was spent.

(b) & (c) : On 13.09.2023, the Union Cabinet has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project, at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore for a period of 4 years starting from 2023. 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. The eCourts Project 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 includes 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, etc. Under the eCourts Project funds are released to various High Courts on the recommendation of the eCommittee Supreme Court of India and not to specific States. The details of component-wise allocation, including in respect of High Court of Madras are at Annexure I.

During FY 2024-25, a sum of Rs. 1500 crore has been allocated in BE under eCourts Project Phase-III, of which Rs. 465.74 crore has been released, till July 2024.

(d) Yes, Sir. Third-Party Evaluation has been conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) for eCourts Project 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.

(e) eCourts project is being implemented in association with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, presently headed by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, and Department of Justice, in a decentralized manner through the respective High Courts. The eCommittee is responsible for the policy planning, strategic direction and guidance for implementation of eCourts project and works in collaborative partnership with Department of Justice, which is responsible for providing necessary funding for the project.

The Detailed Project Report of the e-Courts Project Phase-III was approved by the eCommittee on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. The said Detailed Project Report formed the basis for approval of Phase-III by the Union Cabinet on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In addition, the eCommittee has issued various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for activities like Video Conferencing, e-Filing, Digitization, etc. and circulated to all the High Courts for their guidance.

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**Annexure I**

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 856 for 26/07/2024 regarding e-Courts. The components and financial details of eCourts Phase-III are as below:

S.No.	Scheme Component	Cost Estimate (Total (In Rs. Cr.))
1	Scanning, Digitization and Digital Preservation of Case Records	2038.40
2	Cloud Infrastructure	1205.23
3	Additional hardware to existing courts	643.66
4	Infrastructure in newly set up courts	426.25
5	Virtual Courts	413.08
6	eSewa Kendra	394.48
7	Paperless Court	359.20
8	System and Application Software Development	243.52
9	Solar Power Backup	229.50
10	Video Conferencing set-up	228.48
11	e- filing	215.97
12	Connectivity (Primary + Redundancy)	208.72
13	Capacity Building	208.52
14	CLASS (Courtroom Live-Audio Visual Streaming System)	112.26
15	Project Management Unit	56.67
16	Future Technological Advancements	53.57
17	Judicial process re-engineering	33.00
18	Disabled friendly ICT enabled facilities	27.54
19	NSTEP	25.75
20	Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)	23.72
21	Knowledge Management System	23.30
22	e-Office for High Courts & District Courts	21.10
23	Integration with Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)	11.78
24	S3WAAS platform	6.35
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7210</b>