

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

LOK SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *376
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20TH DECEMBER, 2024**

BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES

***376. SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:**

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

- (a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the backlog of criminal cases in courts;**
- (b) the measures being implemented to ensure faster trials for undertrials in the criminal justice system; and**
- (c) the manner in which the Government is ensuring timely delivery of justice to victims of crimes, particularly in high-profile cases?**

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) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.

(a) & (b): The disposal of cases in courts is contingent upon several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of physical infrastructure and supporting court staff, 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. Other factors that lead to the delay in the disposal of cases include lack of prescribed timeframe by respective courts for disposal of various kinds of cases, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

In order to reduce overcrowding of jails and help undertrials, the following provisions have been incorporated in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita(BNS), 2023 and BharatiyaNagarik Suraksha Sanhita(BNSS), 2023:

- In section 290 of BNSS, plea bargaining has been made time bound and application for plea bargaining can be made within 30 days from date of framing of charge. In a pleabargaining case, in working out a mutually satisfactory disposition of case under section 293 of the BNS, where the accused is first-time offender and has not been convicted of any offence in the past, the Court may sentence such accused person to one-fourth/one-sixth of punishment prescribed for such offence.
- The maximum period for which Undertrial prisoner can be detained has been prescribed in the section 479 of the BNSS. It has been provided that where a person is a first-time offender (who has never been convicted of any offence in the past), he shall be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence under that law. Further, it shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Jail to make an application to the Court in this regard.

- For the first time, Community Service has been introduced as one of the punishments.

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is implementing a new Central Sector Scheme namely Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme in order to strengthen the criminal court based legal services and provide free legal aid to undertrials. The Scheme has a Financial Outlay of Rs. 998.43 crore for 3 years (F.Y. 2023-24 to F.Y. 2025-26). As of 30th September 2024, LADC offices operate in 653 districts with 4674 staff handling 2.54 lakh criminal cases in 2024-25.

Further, the Undertrial Prisoner Review Committee (UTRCs) have been established in all the districts. From January, 2020 to March, 2024, 39,968 UTRC meetings were held leading to release of 1,04,577 inmates.

As per the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 read with National Legal Services Authority (Lok Adalats) Regulations, 2009, Lok Adalats are organised across the country. In these Lok Adalats, the disputes/ cases including criminal compoundable cases viz. Section 138 N.I. Act, Section 420 IPC, etc. pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled amicably.

The Statements showing the number of cases disposed of by the Lok Adalats State-wise during the last five years is annexed as detailed below:

- (i) The statement of cases settled in National Lok Adalats is annexed at *Annexure-I*.
- (ii) The statement of cases disposed of in the State Lok Adalats is annexed at *Annexure-II*.
- (iii) The statement of cases settled in Permanent Lok Adalats is annexed at *Annexure-III*.

During the Covid pandemic, a virtual platform E- Lok Adalat was introduced to settle disputes, combining technology with alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) mechanisms which improve access and reducing litigation cost. Around 112.39 lakh cases were resolved virtually across 28 States and UTs.

(c): In order to ensure timely delivery of Justice to victims of crimes, the following provisions have been incorporated in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita(BNS) and BharatiyaNagarik Suraksha Sanhita(BNSS):

- **Faster and Fair Resolution:** The new laws promise a faster and fair resolution of cases, instilling confidence in the legal system. Crucial stages of investigation and trial like - Preliminary enquiry (to be completed in 14 days), further investigation (to be completed in 90 days), supply of document to the victim and accused (within 14 days), commitment of a case for trial (within 90 days), filling of discharge applications (within 60 days), framing of charges (within 60 days), pronouncement of judgment (within 45 days) and filling of mercy petitions (30 days before Governor and 60 days before President) – have been laid down and to be completed within stipulated time period.
- **Fast-Track Investigations:** The new laws prioritized the investigations for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information.
- **Limited Adjournments:** Courts can grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings, ensuring timely justice delivery.

14th Finance Commission had recommended for setting up of 1800 Fast Track Courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 for speedy trial of specific cases of heinous nature, civil cases related to women, children, senior citizen, disabled persons, persons infected with terminal ailments etc. and property related cases pending for more than 5 years. The Finance Commission had further urged the

State Governments to utilize enhanced fiscal space available through tax devolution for this purpose. The Union Government has also urged the State Governments to allocate funds for the setting up of FTCs, from the financial year 2015-16 onward. As per information made available by High Courts, 863 FTCs are functional in the country as on 31.10.2024. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Courts are at *Annexure-IV*.

Further, in pursuance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, the Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts since October, 2019 for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to Rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in a time-bound manner. As per the data submitted by the High Courts, 750 FTSCs including 408 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts are functional in 30 States/UTs, as on 31.10.2024. These courts have disposed of more than 2,87,000 cases since the inception of the Scheme. The State/UT-wise details of functional Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), are at *Annexure-V*.

As directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) 699/2016 (*Ashwini Kumar Upadhyaya vs. Union of India & Anr.*) vide its Orders dated 01.11.2017 and 14.12.2017, the Union Government facilitated setting up of 12 Special Courts in 11 States (NCT of Delhi-2, Andhra Pradesh-1, Telangana-1, Karnataka-1, Kerala-1, Tamil Nadu-1, Maharashtra-1, Madhya Pradesh-1, Uttar Pradesh-1, Bihar-1, and West Bengal-1) for the expeditious trial and disposal of criminal cases involving elected MPs/MLAs. As of now, **10 Special Courts are functional in 9 States** (Special court of Bihar and Kerala were discontinued as per direction of the Apex court dated 04.12.2018). Performance of these special courts is being monitored by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.**

The statement of cases settled in National Lok Adalats during the last five years

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (upto September,24)
		Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	Cases disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	248	3997	3310	1536	2319
2	Andhra Pradesh	97415	37896	122839	647956	671612	139472
3	Arunachal Pradesh	588	104	1054	1071	990	1463
4	Assam	21596	12188	39642	113989	164445	129525
5	Bihar	164984	66451	151620	305483	357765	265649
6	Chandigarh	11188	2569	16833	15569	63764	31149
7	Chhattisgarh	57648	24464	134548	1125318	1664237	2374635
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	2270	1799	285	1538	20632	8592
9	Delhi	71377	83006	154992	535025	671278	509192
10	Goa	1565	351	1680	3934	3505	3007
11	Gujarat	193150	41584	748722	1185571	1863177	1584194
12	Haryana	103298	30298	123413	673487	985650	1010654
13	Himachal Pradesh	25432	5971	35556	111150	150181	128235
14	Jammu & Kashmir	32177	13258	166544	390496	404665	446944
15	Jharkhand	49228	53152	232473	1121405	2822947	3501128
16	Karnataka	281849	334681	1277856	3444607	14840452	10488183
17	Kerala	128729	15010	68681	136101	57726	46886
18	Ladakh	0	0	1463	1444	1781	1624

19	Lakshadweep	4	8	7	129	41	35
20	Madhya Pradesh	234433	108365	347333	419776	536105	357346
21	Maharashtra	428376	215837	2440375	4754239	3543736	3588920
22	Manipur	1994	204	794	1343	437	708
23	Meghalaya	695	303	852	956	680	756
24	Mizoram	495	218	790	4432	4087	951
25	Nagaland	973	251	941	888	801	782
26	Odisha	43197	18329	35557	337065	348288	565104
27	Puducherry	4194	1738	5084	6405	6297	3099
28	Punjab	89016	32528	138175	392256	760712	840072
29	Rajasthan	219098	103060	286834	4572315	16586071	8240293
30	Sikkim	165	30	110	232	126	76
31	Tamil Nadu	340594	88819	191604	447536	355762	243724
32	Telangana	110838	47560	349902	1611677	5591849	13399009
33	Tripura	3354	382	1070	4814	15724	32884
34	Uttar Pradesh	2484405	1171022	5551793	18698973	31644594	28258464
35	Uttarakhand	26058	8088	20882	67438	85032	58465
36	West Bengal	62890	28596	133736	788082	1115532	1006326
	Grand Total	5293273	2548368	12788037	41926010	85342217	77269865

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.

The statement of cases disposed of in the State Lok Adalats during the last five years.

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (upto September, 2024)	
		No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)	No. of Benches constituted	Cases Disposed of (Both Pre-litigative and Pending cases)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	2	290	1	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	8493	11400	3585	30461	4874	12123	4999	6720	80	1825	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	47	118	6	25	24	91	1	4	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	419	33084	6	1	136	13672	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Bihar	931	1256	28	97	1	6	9	574	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	12	28	26	1	69	37	30	538	32	1413	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	610	1662	491	3475	187	228	124	139	0	0	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	52	16340	300	195359	250	147103	60	11094	198	123151	182	141984
10	Goa	5	81	8	777	30	3209	43	1308	13	245	8	329
11	Gujarat	4542	20611	2851	21880	5157	15546	3805	19717	12	244	1569	6544
12	Haryana	66040	124952	33774	52789	54762	115797	43135	230018	92	29196	0	0

13	Himachal Pradesh	1865	68651	90	3205	260	22031	142	4198	59	2880	26	1126
14	Jammu & Kashmir	145	16774	125	9469	24	3271	225	76683	134	28170	138	26422
15	Jharkhand	743	14341	607	79649	1310	22954	1523	10868	1495	33718	721	748810
16	Karnataka	3890	45165	1912	121884	412	2524	229	2632	0	0	0	0
17	Kerala	1972	21408	721	4837	302	19226	607	23246	657	26231	291	1675
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	4	32	4	240	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1166	10675	1714	14903	808	4110	1242	5367	1472	48996	548	1426
21	Maharashtra	592	7932	22	605	6	28	30	341	38	580	2	1
22	Manipur	0	0	1	21	0	0	4	43	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	23	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	112	552	27	147	17	204	41	1202	12	94	35	398
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	101	45210	239	4628	12	326	6	112422	3	244230	0	0
27	Puducherry	49	699	24	392	42	262	47	743	38	492	12	181
28	Punjab	803	4242	0	0	339	1108	6	15	154	2268	0	0
29	Rajasthan	3689	6522	607	34514	786	845	1202	1628	1086	1039	526	497
30	Sikkim	120	560	110	158	110	636	150	887	143	784	78	468
31	Tamil Nadu	2181	16621	767	13117	759	13066	1295	16369	1336	34744	263	3104
32	Telangana	1862	12352	1501	24327	2827	7363	2604	25365	2474	171817	1267	12089
33	Tripura	35	7353	12	6938	93	11624	19	2492	62	25637	11	3796
34	Uttar Pradesh	197	3916	200	100305	57	31414	30	259125	172	411941	224	59246
35	Uttarakhand	72	27258	121	6166	25	8605	125	26498	102	17407	43	3816
36	West Bengal	1307	25698	575	13853	774	74999	454	10830	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	102056	545751	50451	744073	74480	532529	62194	851309	9865	1207103	5944	1011912

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.

The statement of cases settled in Permanent Lok Adalats during the last five years.

S. No	SLSA	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25 (upto September, 2024)	
		Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year	Sitting During the year	Cases settled during the year
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1384	1608	431	1283	927	1406	1058	558	1349	1134	726	860
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Assam	263	38	99	12	141	56	213	56	195	97	83	13
5	Bihar	1754	688	977	203	482	221	313	157	0	0	0	0
6	Chandigarh	246	582	246	108	240	687	241	10945	239	11511	124	6978
7	Chhattisgarh	918	96	346	32	1045	1199	1224	2028	1174	6749	575	5536
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Delhi	516	19439	532	14765	791	17395	773	18682	781	19337	412	10713
10	Goa	21	57	24	30	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	44
11	Gujarat	9	120	1	105	9	2238	1	8	0	0	0	0
12	Haryana	3578	45839	3413	9654	3547	30960	3416	72440	3659	107362	1821	33091
13	Himachal Pradesh	38	112	6	10	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Jharkhand	2738	10517	3554	1943	5144	32514	6216	26154	5826	35715	2958	14287

16	Karnataka	1578	6399	1069	3869	1292	5371	904	4588	603	4190	646	4573
17	Kerala	276	442	336	248	212	1104	226	2564	415	1527	196	219
18	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	368	510	455	270	886	574	1176	608	1071	409	422	156
21	Maharashtra	797	3304	541	249	918	765	1017	1208	1023	485	503	497
22	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Odisha	935	1870	583	1350	742	1561	753	1612	1041	1891	632	968
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	4504	8391	2868	3987	4538	9967	4902	14545	4969	20279	2573	9869
29	Rajasthan	4545	5254	1123	806	2960	3228	4435	5072	4230	5799	2600	2333
30	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	245	47	236	80	671	272	1121	528	1119	427	553	237
32	Telangana	181	3546	66	549	108	6674	118	7540	104	12746	37	7086
33	Tripura	147	208	1	0	44	81	70	162	97	157	65	70
34	Uttar Pradesh	4274	1230	2714	383	3961	1087	3720	1173	4476	2516	2005	1001
35	Uttarakhand	461	379	156	522	484	765	590	510	649	432	375	245
36	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Grand Total	29776	110676	19777	40458	29153	118136	32487	171138	33020	232763	17309	98776

ANNEXURE-IV

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.

STATE-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK COURT (FTCs) AS ON 31.10.2024

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	Number of Functional FTCs
1	Andhra Pradesh	21
2	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4	Assam	15
5	Bihar	0
6	Chandigarh	0
7	Chhattisgarh	27
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Diu & Daman	0
9	Delhi	26
10	Goa	4
11	Gujarat	54
12	Haryana	6
13	Himachal Pradesh	3
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8
15	Jharkhand	41
16	Karnataka	0
17	Kerala	0
18	Ladakh	0
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	0
21	Maharashtra	101
22	Manipur	6
23	Meghalaya	0
24	Mizoram	2
25	Nagaland	0
26	Odisha	0
27	Puducherry	0
28	Punjab	7
29	Rajasthan	0
30	Sikkim	2
31	Tamil Nadu	72
32	Telangana	0
33	Tripura	3
34	Uttar Pradesh	373
35	Uttarakhand	4
36	West Bengal	88
	TOTAL	863

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *376 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'BACKLOG OF CRIMINAL CASES'.

STATE-WISE STATUS OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURT (FTSC) AS ON 31.10.2024

Sl. No.	State/UT	Functional Courts	
		FTSCs including ePOCSO	ePOCSO
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
2	Assam	17	17
3	Bihar	46	46
4	Chandigarh	1	0
5	Chhattisgarh	15	11
6	Delhi	16	11
7	Goa	1	0
8	Gujarat	35	24
9	Haryana	16	12
10	Himachal Pradesh	6	3
11	J&K	4	2
12	Jharkhand	22	16
13	Karnataka	31	17
14	Kerala	55	14
15	Madhya Pradesh	67	57
16	Maharashtra	8	4
17	Manipur	2	0
18	Meghalaya	5	5
19	Mizoram	3	1
20	Nagaland	1	0
21	Odisha	44	23
22	Puducherry*	1	1
23	Punjab	12	3
24	Rajasthan	45	30
25	Tamil Nadu	14	14
26	Telangana	36	0
27	Tripura	3	1
28	Uttarakhand	4	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	218	74
30	West Bengal	6	6
31	A&N**	-	-
32	Arunachal Pradesh***	-	-
	TOTAL	750	408

* Puducherry specially requested to join the Scheme and has since operationalized one exclusive POCSO Court in May 2023.

** A&N Islands has conveyed its willingness to join the Scheme, but has not yet established any FTSC.

*** Arunachal Pradesh has opted out of the Scheme citing a very low number of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act.