

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE)

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4189**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**Delay in Implementation of e-Court Mission**

**4189. DR. PRASHANT YADAORAO PADOLE:**

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

- (a) whether it is fact that there is constant delay in implementation of e-Court Mission Mode Project in Maharashtra, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the reasons for not achieving the targets of digitizing court records and bringing improvement in IT infrastructure in the district courts, along with the measures being taken to address these delays;
- (c) the details of Gram Nyayalaya Scheme in Maharashtra particularly in reference to establishment and operations thereof;
- (d) the reasons for various Gram Nyayalayas being inactive along with the steps being taken to deal with these challenges; and
- (e) whether any initiative has been taken or assistance programme has been launched recently by the Government for promotion of alternative dispute resolution mechanism like arbitration?

**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) and (b) : No. As per information received from the Central Project Coordinator (CPC), eCourts Project, Bombay High Court, there is no delay in implementation of eCourts Project in the State of Maharashtra. As informed, almost the entire funds allocated during first Phase and Second Phase of the project have been utilised completely and the Phase – III is currently under progress. Out of Rs. 125,24,30,700 released under Phase – II, Rs. 125,19,68,985

was utilized. Similarly, out of Rs. 69,53,84,392 released in FY 2023-24, as part of Phase – III, Rs. 69,53,83,820 was utilized. Till 2023, digital infrastructure has been provided to 18,735 courts including, 2201 courts under the High Court of Bombay.

The digitization of records is moving at a fast pace in the High Court of Bombay and as on date, 1,66,47,045 pages have been digitized in the High Court. A pilot project with respect to digitization of records has been initiated at the district level in Sangli and the City Civil Court, Mumbai. As the process of providing the Central Cloud repository for storing documents is being managed at the level of eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, the same is soon going to be taken up at the District Courts across the State.

(c) and (d) : In order to provide access to justice to the citizens at their door steps, the Central Government had enacted the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008. In terms of Section 3 (1) of the Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008, the State Governments are responsible for establishing Gram Nyayalayas in consultation with their respective High Courts. As per the data provided by the High Court of Bombay, there are 39 Notified Gram Nyayalayas in the State of Maharashtra as on date, out of which 26 are Operational in the State. District-wise list of notified and operationalized Gram Nyayalayas in Maharashtra is at Annexure I.

According to certain studies, the main reasons for slow progress in setting up of Gram Nyayalayas include, non-filling of the post of Nyayadhikaris in many States, non-availability of public prosecutors, notaries and general shortage of first-class judicial magistrates, limited pecuniary jurisdiction of Gram Nyayalayas, insufficient staff, inadequate financial backing from States, reluctance from legal and state authorities and lack of community awareness. Besides, the issue of overlapping jurisdiction with regular courts is another reason for slow take off in respect of Gram Nyayalayas in some States. Moreover, many States have their own parallel systems of village courts functioning at panchayat level.

To set up Gram Nyayalayas in the country, it was decided in the Conference of Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers of the States on 7th April, 2013 that the State Government and High Courts should take decision on setting up Gram Nyayalayas wherever feasible, taking into account the local issues and situations, as it is a voluntary scheme. The Central Government has been urging the States through meetings to operationalize the already notified Gram Nyayalayas, on a regular basis.

(e) : During the past decade, the Government of India has taken various initiatives in the realm of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The Government is promoting ADR mechanisms including arbitration and mediation, as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. Various initiatives have been taken to strengthen these mechanisms and make them more efficacious and expeditious. The major initiatives taken by the Central Government over the years in this regard include:

- i. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been progressively amended in the years 2015, 2019 and 2020. These amendments aim at ensuring timely conclusion of arbitration proceedings, neutrality of arbitrators, minimizing judicial intervention in the arbitral process and efficacious enforcement of arbitral awards. The amendments are further aimed at promoting institutional arbitration, updating the law to reflect best global practices and resolve ambiguities thereby establishing an arbitration ecosystem where arbitral institutions can flourish.
- ii. The India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019, was enacted to provide for the establishment of the India International Arbitration Centre (Centre) for the purpose of creating an independent, autonomous and world class body for facilitating institutional arbitration and to declare the Centre to be an institution of national importance. The Centre has since been established and aims to inspire confidence amongst parties, both domestic and

international, by providing a neutral dispute resolution platform for resolution of commercial disputes through arbitration. The Centre has also notified the India International Arbitration Centre (Conduct of Arbitration) Regulations, 2023, to facilitate conduct of domestic and international arbitrations, with a focus on efficient and time-bound arbitration process. The Chamber of Arbitration established under Section 28 of the India International Arbitration Centre Act, 2019 continues to empanel reputed arbitrators, both for domestic and international arbitrations. The Centre is envisaged to become a model arbitral institution in the country, thereby paving the way for enhancing the quality of institutional framework for arbitration.

- iii. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in the year 2018 to provide inter-alia for Pre-Institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mechanism. Under this mechanism, where a commercial dispute of specified value does not contemplate any urgent interim relief, the parties have to first exhaust the mandatory remedy of PIMS before approaching the Court. This is aimed at providing an opportunity to the parties to resolve the commercial disputes through mediation.
- iv. The Mediation Act, 2023, lays down the statutory framework for mediation to be adopted by parties to a dispute, especially institutional mediation, wherein various stakeholders have also been identified to establish a robust and efficacious mediation ecosystem in the country.

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## Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4189 for 20/12/2024 regarding Delay in Implementation of e-Court Mission. District wise list of Notified and Operational Gram Nyayalayas in Maharashtra are as below:

S.No	Name of the Block/Area	Name of District	Notified	Operational
1	Sevagram(Wardha)	Wardha	Yes	Yes
2	Gadchandur(Korpana)	Chandrapur	Yes	Yes
3	Uralikanchan(Haveli)	Pune	Yes	Yes
4	Kasarkheda(Nanded)	Nanded	Yes	Yes
5	Nizampur(Sakri)	Dhule	Yes	Yes
6	Ralegaon-Sddhi (Parner)	Ahmednagar	Yes	Yes
7	Pali (Ratnagiri)	Ratnagiri	Yes	Yes
8	Kharwali (Mahad)	Alibag-Raigad	Yes	Yes
9	Jawahar	Thane	Yes	Yes
10	Bodwad	Jalgaon	Yes	Yes
11	Korchi	Gadchiroli	Yes	Yes
12	Mulchera	Gadchiroli	Yes	Yes
13	Vaibhavwadi	Sindhudurg	Yes	Yes
14	Goregaon	Gondia	Yes	Yes
15	Tala	Raigad	Yes	Yes
16	Jalkot	Latur	Yes	Yes
17	Shirur Anantpal	Latur	Yes	Yes
18	Mandangad	Ratnagiri	Yes	Yes
19	Salekasa	Gondia	Yes	Yes
20	Male (Tal Mulshi)	Pune	Yes	Yes
21	Deola	Nashik	Yes	Yes
22	Alipur (Hinganghat)	Wardha	Yes	Yes
23	Poladpur	Raigad-Alibag	Yes	Yes
24	Trimbakeshwar	Nashik	Yes	Yes
25	Chikhaldara	Amravati	Yes	No
26	Jivti	Chandrapur	Yes	No
27	Akkalkuwa	Dhule	Yes	No
28	Bhamaragad	Gadchiroli	Yes	No
29	Itapalli	Gadchiroli	Yes	No
30	Gaganbawada	Kolhapur	Yes	No

31	Peth	Nashik	Yes	No
32	Umri	Nanded	Yes	No
33	Welhe	Pune	Yes	Yes
34	Mhasala	Raigad-Alibag	Yes	No
35	Dodamarg	Sindhudurg	Yes	No
36	Vikramgad	Thane	Yes	No
37	Mokhada	Thane	Yes	No
38	Talasari	Thane	Yes	No
39	Deoli	Wardha	Yes	Yes