

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4190  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 20TH DECEMBER, 2024**

**PENDING CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES**

**†4190. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:**

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

- (a) the number of cheque bounce cases pending in various courts across the country;**
- (b) whether a separate category has been made to deal with the pending cheque bounce and any special scheme has been formulated/being formulated for speedy settlement and redressal of the said cases;**
- (c) if so, the current status of said cases and the reasons for their pendency; and**
- (d) whether any steps are being taken for speedy settlement of such 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):** As per the information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the details of State/UT wise cases pending under Negotiable Instrument Act across the country is at *Annexure-I*.

**(b) to (d):** The cheque bounce cases are dealt under section 138 of NI Act. 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.

Indian Bank Association along with other petitioners had filed a Writ Petition (W.P. (Civil) No. 18 of 2013) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, inter-alia, seeking issue of appropriate guidelines/directions from the Court for ensuring strict adherence to the summary procedure prescribed under section 143 of Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (NI Act). While deciding this case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has issued detailed guidelines to all the criminal courts for dealing with NI Act cases.

In Suo Moto WP (Crl) No. 2/2020, the Hon'ble Supreme Court considered the delay in the disposal of cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act which is creating logjam in courts at all levels, particularly, the Trial Courts and the High Courts. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 10.03.2021, inter-alia, ordered to constitute a 10-member Committee with the objective of submitting a report specifying the steps that must be taken in order to facilitate an early disposal of cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The Committee submitted its Report to the Hon'ble Court, wherein it, inter alia, also suggested the creation of de novo Special Negotiable Instruments Court. The Amici Curiae in the matter suggested a pilot study, in 5 judicial districts with the highest pendency in the 5 states with the highest pendency (namely, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh) so that the viability of the scheme can be examined based on the results of the pilot study. Thereafter, vide its order dated 19.05.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that the pilot study shall be conducted in the manner indicated in the said order for a duration of 1 year from 01.09.2022 to 31.08.2023. It will be conducted

in 25 Special Courts in total, with one Special Court in each of the 5 judicial districts which have been identified as having the highest pendency of NI Act cases by each of the five High Courts mentioned above.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4190 FOR ANSWER ON 20.12.2024 REGARDING 'PENDING CHEQUE BOUNCE CASES'.**

The number of cases under Negotiable Instrument Act across the country as on 18.12.2024

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Name of the State</b>	<b>Pending Cases</b>
1	Rajasthan	641898
2	Maharashtra	589836
3	Gujarat	473236
4	Delhi	454653
5	Uttar Pradesh	376298
6	West Bengal	286191
7	Haryana	240843
8	Madhya Pradesh	192120
9	Tamil Nadu	151932
10	Punjab	150357
11	Karnataka	126640
12	Kerala	120251
13	Chhattisgarh	66446
14	Odisha	63868
15	Andhra Pradesh	61669
16	Himachal Pradesh	56613
17	Bihar	53247
18	Telangana	49853
19	Uttarakhand	48216
20	Jharkhand	35646
21	Chandigarh	25437
22	Assam	21394
23	Goa	11314
24	Puducherry	6035
25	Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Diu and Daman	1417
26	Tripura	409
27	Arunachal Pradesh	64
28	Sikkim	20
29	Nagaland	16
30	Lakshadweep	13
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4305932</b>

Source: -Report as per statistics available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal dated 18.12.2024.