

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*487**  
ANSWERED ON – 04/04/2025

**FAMILY COURTS**

**\*487. Shri Selvam G:**  
**Shri CN Annadurai:**

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

- (a) the number of family courts functioning in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new family courts where these have not been established yet and if so, the details thereof and the timeline for implementation, district-wise in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the challenges faced by family courts in handling matrimonial and custody cases, if so, the details of such challenges including shortage of judges, infrastructure constraints and procedural delays;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the functioning of family courts in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has encouraged the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms such as mediation and counseling in family courts, if so, the details of such initiatives and their success rate; and
- (f) the plan of the Government to further integrate ADR mechanisms to reduce the burden on the courts?

**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 (f):** A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*487 FOR THE 04<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2025 REGARDING ‘FAMILY  
COURTS’**

(a) to (d): The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of family courts by the State Governments in consultation with their respective High Courts to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs and for matters connected therewith. Under Section 3(1) (a) of the Family Courts Act, it is mandatory for the State Governments to set up a family court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million. In other areas of the States, the family courts may also be set up if the State Governments deem it necessary. Timely disposal of cases in courts depends on several factors which, *inter-alia*, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, 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. The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency.

As per the information received from the High Courts, as on 28.02.2025, 914 Family Courts are functional across the country including 40 Family Courts in the State of Tamil Nadu. The State/UT- wise number of functional Family Court, is at **Annexure**.

In Family Courts, delays in proceedings exacerbate tensions and prolong emotional stress, hindering timely dispute resolution. Enforcing decisions on child custody, visitation rights, and financial support remains challenging despite court rulings, leading to continued conflict and frustration. Additionally, the requirement for travel to another city for court appearances imposes significant logistical and financial burdens, especially for families already under strain. It is also important to note that counsellors play a vital role in providing advice and guidance, but their effectiveness depends on proper training and capacity building. Improving Family Courts necessitates providing sufficient infrastructure and specialized judges with adequate training. Sensitizing judges, court staff, and stakeholders, along with gender sensitivity training, is imperative to ensure fair treatment, reduce bias, and protect the rights of all parties, particularly women. Considering the appointment of lady judges and counsellors could further enhance the system's effectiveness. The Government has brought these issues to the attention of the States/High Courts by addressing communications at the level of Minister of Law and Justice to the Chief Ministers of States/UTs and the Chief Justices of all High Courts.

As per Section 6 of the aforesaid Act, it is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, in consultation with their respective High Court, to determine the number and categories of counsellors, officers, and other employees required to assist a Family Court in discharge of its functions and provide the Family Court with such counsellors, officers and other employees as it may think fit.

Further, the Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary, as under:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011 with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system

and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a coordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in sanctioned strength of District and Subordinate Courts, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

**ii.** Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being released to States/UTs for construction of court halls, residential quarters for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms that ease the life of various stakeholders including the litigants, thereby aiding justice delivery. As on 28.02.2025, Rs. 11886.29 crores have been released since the inception of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 as on 30.06.2014 to 22,062 as on 28.02.2025 and the number of residential units has increased from 10,211 as on 30.06.2014 to 19,775 as on 28.02.2025, under this scheme.

**iii.** Further, under Phase I & II of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) had been leveraged for IT enablement of District and Subordinate Courts. 18,735 District and Subordinate Courts were computerized till 2023. WAN connectivity has been provided to 99.5% of court complexes. Video conferencing facility has been enabled between 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 corresponding jails. As on 28.02.2025, 1572 eSewa Kendras in District Courts and 39 eSewa Kendras in High Courts have been made functional to bridge the digital divide by providing citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants. 28 virtual courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs. As on 28.02.2025, these courts have handled more than 6.95 crore cases and realized more than Rs. 736.11 crores in fines. The Cabinet, on 13.09.2023, has approved Phase-III of the eCourts Project at an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore. Taking the gains of Phase-I and Phase-II to the next level, the e-Courts Phase-III aims to usher in a regime of enhanced ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts. It intends to incorporate latest technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block Chain, etc. to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible to all the stakeholders.

**iv.** In pursuance of a Resolution passed in Chief Justices' Conference held in April, 2015, Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts to clear cases pending for more than five years. Arrears Committees have been set up under District Courts as well.

**v.** Under the aegis of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the Fast Track Courts have been established for dealing with cases of heinous crimes, cases involving senior citizens, women, children, etc. As on 28.02.2025, 857 Fast Track Courts are functional across the country. To fast-track criminal cases involving elected MPs / MLAs, ten (10) Special Courts are functional in nine (9) States/UTs. Further, the Central Government has approved a Scheme for setting up Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for the expeditious disposal of pending cases of Rape and POCSO Act. As on 28.02.2025, 745 FTSCs including 404 exclusive POCSO (ePOCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 3,13,000 cases.

**vi.** With a view to reduce pendency and unclogging of the courts, the Government has amended various laws like The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Commercial Courts (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Specific Relief (Amendment) Act, 2018, The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2019 and The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2018.

**vii.** Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted whole heartedly. Accordingly, The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. In order to further enhance the efficiency of the PIMS mechanism, the Government, through The Mediation Act, 2023, has further amended the Commercial Court Act, 2015. Amendments to The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 have been made in the years 2015, 2019 & 2021 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes.

Under The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, there is a provision for case management hearing which provides for an efficient, effective and purposeful judicial management of a case so as to achieve a timely and qualitative resolution of a dispute. It assists in early identification of disputed issues of fact and law, establishment of procedural calendar for the life of the case and the exploration of possibilities of the resolution of the dispute.

Another novel feature introduced for the commercial courts is the system of color banding which limits the number of adjournments that can be granted in any commercial matter to three and alerts the judges about listing of the cases in accordance with their stage of pendency.

**viii.** Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common people. It is a forum where the disputes/ cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Under The Legal Services Authorities (LSA) Act, 1987, an award made by a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies against thereto before any court. Lok Adalat is not a permanent establishment. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

The details of the cases disposed of in National Lok Adalats during the last four years are as under: -

<b>Years</b>	<b>Pre-litigation Cases</b>	<b>Pending Cases</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
2021	72,06,294	55,81,743	1,27,88,037
2022	3,10,15,215	1,09,10,795	4,19,26,010
2023	7,10,32,980	1,43,09,237	8,53,42,217
2024	8,70,19,059	1,75,07,060	10,45,26,119
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,62,73,548</b>	<b>4,83,08,835</b>	<b>24,45,82,383</b>

**ix.** The Government launched the Tele-Law programme in 2017, which provides an effective and reliable e-interface platform connecting the needy and disadvantaged sections seeking legal advice and consultation with panel lawyers via video conferencing, telephone and chat facilities available at

the Common Service Centres (CSCs) situated in Gram Panchayats and through Tele-Law mobile App.

\*Percentage-wise break-up of Tele – Law Data

<b>Category</b>	<b>Cases Registered</b>	<b>% Wise Break Up</b>	<b>Advice Enabled</b>	<b>% Wise Break Up</b>
<b>Gender Wise</b>				
Female	43,50,146	39.53%	42,92,045	39.49%
Male	66,55,274	60.47%	65,77,616	60.51%
<b>Caste Category Wise</b>				
General	25,94,779	23.58%	25,54,696	23.50%
OBC	34,67,629	31.51%	34,21,343	31.48%
SC	34,55,009	31.39%	34,19,433	31.46%
ST	14,88,003	13.52%	14,74,189	13.56%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,10,05,420</b>		<b>1,08,69,661</b>	

\*Data as on 28.02.2025.

- x. Efforts have been made to institutionalize pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering in the country. A technological framework has been put in place where advocates volunteering to give their time and services for pro bono work can register as Pro Bono Advocates on Nyaya Bandhu (Android & iOS and Apps). Nyaya Bandhu Services are also available on UMANG Platform. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been initiated in 23 High Courts at the State/UT level. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

(e) & (f): The Government is promoting alternate dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms including mediation and counseling in family courts to facilitate amicable settlements and reduce litigation burdens, as these mechanisms are less adversarial and are capable of providing a better substitute to the conventional methods of resolving disputes. The use of ADR mechanisms is also expected to reduce the burden on the judiciary and thereby enable timely justice dispensation to citizens of the country. The Government is further taking policy and legislative interventions, to strengthen these mechanisms and make them more efficacious and expeditious.

Section 9 of the Family Courts Act, 1984, mandates Family Courts to make efforts for settlement before proceeding with litigation, emphasizing the importance of mediation and conciliation in resolving family disputes.

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The State/UT- wise details of number of functional Family Courts as on 28.02.2025

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name of the State/UTs</b>	<b>Number of Functional Family Courts</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar island</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Assam</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Chandigarh</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Dadra &amp; Nagar Haveli and Daman &amp; Diu</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Delhi</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Goa</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Haryana</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Kerala</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Ladakh</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Lakshadweep</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Manipur</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Nagaland</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Puducherry</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Telangana</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Tripura</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>914</b>