

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3492**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**ODR and Virtual Courts in Maharashtra**

**3492. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has plans to expand the scope of Virtual Courts beyond handling traffic challans, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage High Courts to establish Virtual Benches, particularly in Maharashtra; and
- (c) whether Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) mechanisms are being implemented across States/UTs, particularly in Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof?

**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 novel concept of Virtual Courts has been introduced under the eCourts Project. It is one of the tools used for implementing Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). The aim is to reduce the footfalls in the courts, by eliminating physical presence of violators or advocates in courts' premises. As of now, Virtual courts are being used for traffic challan matters. Under the Phase III of the eCourts project, Rs. 413.08 Cr have been allocated for the expansion of Virtual Courts across India. As per information provided by the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, modalities are being worked out to expand the usage of Virtual Courts to various other summary cases, specially those involving the imposition of fines for minor regulatory violations whose statistics indicate that a plea of guilt is entered on the first date.

The proliferation of virtual hearings conducted by the High Courts is detailed at Annexure I. To use the facility to operate more virtual benches is to be considered by the High Courts, including the High Court of Bombay.

Under the eCourts Project phase III, an amount of Rs. 23.72 crore has been allocated for Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). Under the Phase III, an ODR centre for each High Court and a dedicated software platform to handle court related ODR has been planned. A separate software team and a centralised cloud-based hardware is planned to be set aside for running these ODR platforms over a period of time, which will facilitate in tackling the pendency of cases. In view of the importance of enabling dispute resolution through the use of Information and Communication Technology, Section 30 of the Mediation Act, 2023, contains exclusive provisions for Online Mediation.

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## Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3492 for 21/03/2025 regarding ODR and Virtual Courts in Maharashtra. The High Court-wise details of Virtual hearings is as below:

Number of cases dealt with (virtual hearings) on video conferencing in High Courts and District Courts as on 31st January 2025				
S. No.	High Court	High Courts	District Courts	Grand Total
1	Allahabad	247388	6198497	6445885
2	Andhra Pradesh	407844	1439002	1846846
3	Bombay	68675	215481	284156
4	Calcutta	163716	96365	260081
5	Chhattisgarh	104224	306193	410417
6	Delhi	322024	6173665	6495689
7	Gauhati – Arunachal Pradesh	2856	8345	11201
8	Gauhati – Assam	267063	489453	756516
9	Gauhati – Mizoram	4137	13268	17405
10	Gauhati - Nagaland	1200	930	2130
11	Gujarat	412983	219558	632541
12	Himachal Pradesh	184912	190964	375876
13	Jammu & Kashmir	262032	550523	812555
14	Jharkhand	222671	706551	929222
15	Karnataka	1261954	169202	1431156
16	Kerala	166589	639489	806078
17	Madhya Pradesh	679551	1049797	1729348
18	Madras	1487878	394231	1882109
19	Manipur	52093	16546	68639
20	Meghalaya	6026	60566	66592
21	Orissa	342870	321286	664156
22	Patna	277696	2887777	3165473
23	Punjab & Haryana	616844	3040757	3657601
24	Rajasthan	244832	228175	473007
25	Sikkim	698	16133	16831
26	Telangana	1311437	195565	1507002
27	Tripura	22396	37854	60250
28	Uttarakhand	89051	48597	137648
	Total	9231640	25714770	34946410