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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 911 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 07th FEBRUARY, 2025

e-Courts Project Phase III

911. SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:

SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP:

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

DR. BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

SMT. VIJAYLAKSHMI DEVI:

SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI ALOK SHARMA:

SHRI DINESHBHAI MAKWANA:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI NABA CHARAN MAJHI:

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing judicial infrastructure to include more courts at district and sub-district level under Phase-III of e-Courts project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and State-wise including Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra, Durg Parliamentary Constituency and Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh and Keonjhar district of Odisha;
- (c) the manner in which Phase-III is addressing the issue of pendency of cases and whether there are any specific timelines or targets set for reducing pendency of cases through the new digital tools and systems introduced in the said phase, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any measures have been taken to train judicial staff and stakeholders to use the new technologies introduced through the e-Courts project, if so, the details of the training programmes planned or being implemented to ensure effective adoption of these technologies; and

(e) the security protocols in place to safeguard sensitive legal data and prevent cyber threats within the judiciary?

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) & (b): With a significant outlay of Rs.7210 crore, the eCourts Phase III Project underlines the importance which the Government attaches to the infrastructural needs of the courts in the country. Several initiatives have been planned and are under progress, to strengthen and expand the capacity of the existing infrastructure at the district and sub-district levels, including Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra, Durg Parliamentary Constituency, Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh and Keonjhar district of Odisha. Some of the major initiatives under the eCourts Phase III project include, making fully functional advanced e-Sewa Kendras in all court complexes, interlinking of all courts across the country, including High Courts and District and Subordinate courts, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enablement of the Indian judicial system and making the justice delivery system accessible, costeffective, transparent, and accountable. Besides, infrastructure is being developed for paperless courts in a phase-wise manner, expansion of the virtual courts for hearing of court cases by creating a robust digital infrastructure, live streaming of court proceedings, digitisation of the entire court records, E-filing of cases and provision for video conferencing facilities. Some of the futuristic technological advancements such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and others are also planned. For ensuring seamless availability of ICT infrastructure, solar power facilities are being installed and obsolete hardware is being replaced. Migrating the District Court websites to the Secure, Scalable & Sugamya Website as a Service (S3WAAS)platform is an ongoing process and efforts are on to provide adequate cloud storage facilities in the courts.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Bombay, under Phase III of the eCourts Project, ICT Infrastructure including, All-in-One Computers, Scanners, UPS (Uninterruptible power supply), Complete Hybrid Video Conferencing Systems, LAN (Local Area Network) Nodes, Display Board, MFD (Multi-Function Device)printers for existing courts has been provided in all the newly established courts in the State of Maharashtra including, District court, Jalgaon. eSewa Kendras, are also established which includes, various hardware at district and taluka courts in the State of Maharashtra. Also, two courts are identified as online courts in the district headquarter at Jalgaon, under Phase-III of the eCourts Project and distribution of the ICT infrastructure for the said online courts is in process.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Odisha, 4 new courts at the district headquarters and 4 new taluka courts have been provided with all the requisite ICT hardware including, All-in-One Computers, MFD Printers, UPS, LAN Nodes, Display monitors etc. Video conferencing facilities have been provided to all the 26 courts in the Keonjhar district. eSewa Kendras are functioning in 7 court complexes of the district, with requisite ICT hardware in place. One new Court Complex at Telkoi is being provided with prescribed ICT Hardware items i.e. Projector with Screen, 2 KVA UPS, 2 TB Hard disk, 7.5 KVA DG Sets etc. Under online court, 2 courts namely, ADJ-cum-Spl. Judge (Vig.) Court and Judge Family Court are being provided with prescribed Hardware Items i.e. WACOM (Interactive display), PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) Camera, VC (Video conferencing) Unit, High Speed Scanner, Computer System, LED (Light-emitting diode) Display etc.

As per the information provided by the High Court of Chhattisgarh, ICT infrastructure was provided to 467 Courts in 23 Districts in the earlier phases, which is now proposed to be increased to 653 courts. As on date, as far as Bemetara district is concerned, 14 courts are proposed to be covered under eCourts Project and for the Durg Parliamentary Constituency, 76 courts are

proposed to be covered under eCourts Phase III with requisite ICT infrastructure. The details are at Annexure I.

- (c): No time frame has been prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases by the respective courts. 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. There are several factors which may lead to delay in disposal of cases. These, inter-alia, include vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing. As far as, the technological interventions are concerned, under eCourts Project, the Wide Area Network (WAN) has been extended to 99.5% court complexes, 27 Virtual Courts have been set up in 21 States/UTs to try traffic offences, litigants have access to case information through the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), VC facilities have been operationalized between 3240 Courts and related 1272 Prisons, live streaming of court proceedings is functional in the 9 High Courts, e-filing system (version 3.0) has been rolled out with upgraded features for lawyers to access and upload documents related to the cases from any location 24X7. As on date, 12,19,214 cases have been filed in High Courts and 49,04,673 have been filed in District & Taluka Courts (Total 61,23,887) using eFiling facility. Apart from this, 1540 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in District & Subordinate courts and 39 eSewa Kendras (Facilitation Centres) in High Courts including 3 benches of Gauhati High Court have been rolled out to provide citizen centric services to lawyers and litigants.
- (d): The details of the training programs conducted by the eCommittee, SCI covering various stakeholders, like, courts staff, advocates, Judges, etc., are available in the public domain at eCommittee, SCI webportal link: https://ecommitteesci.gov.in/document-category/training-and-awareness-programmes/.

(e): A Sub-Committee consisting of six judges of the various High Courts, assisted by technical working group members consisting of domain experts, has been constituted by the Chairperson of the eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to suggest/recommend secure connectivity and authentication mechanisms for data protection, to preserve the right to privacy. The Sub-Committee is mandated to critically assess and examine the digital infrastructure, network and service delivery solutions created under the eCourts project for giving solutions for strengthening data security and for protecting the privacy of citizens.

Annexure I

Statement referred to in reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 911 for 07/02/2025 regarding e-Courts Project Phase III. The ICT Hardware provisioned for Durg Parliamentary Constituency and Bemetara district of Chhattisgarh under eCourts Project Phase-III, as received from High Court of Chhattisgarh are as below:

Court of Chilatusgarii are as below.			
S. No.	Name of the District	Infrastructure hitherto provided at the District & Sub- District level under the eCourts Mission Mode Project*	Infrastructure proposed to be provided at the District & Sub- District level under the eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase III **
1	Surguja at Ambikapur	19	25
2	Korea at Baikunthpur	19	23
3	Balod	12	14
4	Baloda-Bazar	27	22
5	Balrampur at Ramanujganj	8	11
6	Bemetara	9	14
7	Bilaspur	35	65
8	Dantewara	13	17
9	Dhamtari	16	14
10	Durg	32	76
11	Bastar at Jagdalpur	14	17
12	Janjgir-Champa	22	34
13	Jashpur	19	16
14	Kanker	15	27
15	Kabirdham	12	14
16	Kondagaon	10	11
17	Korba	19	26
18	Mahasamund	18	24
19	Mungeli	7	10
20	Raigarh	31	39
21	Raipur	74	106
22	Rajnandgaon	22	30
23	Surajpur	14	18
	Total	467	653

Note: *Includes the courts where infrastructure has already been provided.

^{**} This takes into account the courts where infrastructure has already been provided in previous phases, which is proposed to be increased in eCourts Phase III.