

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 13th FEBRUARY, 2026**

PENDENCY OF CASES

**2362. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda:
Shri Karti P Chidambaram:
Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy:
Shri Laxmikant Pappu Nishad:**

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

- (a) the present number of pending cases before the Supreme Court, various High Courts and subordinate courts across the country as of December, 2025, along with the rise in pendency, if any, during the last three years;
- (b) the number of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) established to deal with cases involving women, children and other sensitive matters, along with their current disposal rates;
- (c) the number of sanctioned, working and vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and district judiciary, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the sanctioned strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts to address rising pendency, if so, the details thereof and the expected timeline for implementation;
- (e) the budgetary, legislative and administrative measures taken or proposed during 2024–25 to reduce pendency, fill vacancies in a time-bound manner, strengthen legal aid and improve court infrastructure including e-Courts in Uttar Pradesh;
- (f) the number of sanctioned, working and vacant posts of Judges in the Allahabad High Court (including Lucknow Bench) and in district and subordinate courts of Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and
- (g) the comprehensive steps taken or proposed by the Government to reduce judicial delays and improve case management across all levels of 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): As per information available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), the present number of pending cases before the Supreme Court, various High Courts and subordinate courts across the country as on 31st December, 2025, along with the rise in pendency, during the last three years is at **Annexure-I & II**.

(b): 774 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including 398 exclusive e-POCSO Courts have been established for time-bound trial and disposal of cases relating to rape and offences under the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, as on 31.12.2025. The current disposal rate (January'25–December'25) in these Courts is 46.20%.

(c): As per data available on Nyaya Vikas Portal, the number of sanctioned, working and vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and district judiciary, State-wise is at **Annexure-III & IV**.

(d): The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 was amended to increase the sanctioned strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI). The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019 came into force w.e.f. 09.08.2019. The sanctioned strength of Judges of High Court has been increased from 906 in 2014 to 1122 as on 06.02.2026.

(e): The Government has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary which, inter-alia, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124, 217 and 224 of the Constitution of India and according to the procedure laid down in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) prepared in 1998 pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 (Second Judges case) read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998 (Third Judges case). As per the MoP, the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court vests with the Chief Justice of India, while the responsibility for initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges in the High Court vests with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, in consultation with two senior-most puisne Judges of the High Court. Further filling up of vacant positions of judges in District and Subordinate courts is the responsibility of the High Courts and State Governments concerned.

As per Article 39A of the Constitution of India and as a part of the preventive and strategic legal aid, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) through the State Legal Services Authorities and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) has undertaken several legal services activities in the country to ensure that legal aid reach the poor. To strengthen the criminal court based legal services, the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS) Scheme has been introduced as a Central Sector Scheme by the Department of Justice, which involves full time engagement of Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) with supporting staff at district level. As on December 2025, Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) offices are functional in 680 districts across the country. LADCS Scheme has been approved for the period of 3 financial years 2023-24 to 2025-26) with a total financial outlay of Rs. 998.43 crore and up to January 2026, Rs. 643.755 crore has been released to NALSA for LADCS Scheme. The details of criminal cases assigned and disposed of by LADCs during the last three years are as follows: -

Financial Year	Criminal Cases assigned	Criminal Cases disposed	Disposal Rate
2023-24	3,36,830	2,12,505	63%
2024-25	5,32,413	3,72,750	70%
2025-26 (Dec. 2025)	3,93,614	2,86,326	73%
Total	12,62,857	8,71,581	69%

To augment the resources of the State Governments/UTs, the Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary in the District and Subordinate Courts since 1993-94, by providing financial assistance in the prescribed fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and States/UTs. Total Central assistance of Rs.1,756.41 crore (as on 31.01.2026) has been provided to the State of Uttar Pradesh since inception of the Scheme. During the FY 2024-25, an amount of Rs.174.12 Crore has been released to the State of Uttar Pradesh. As on 31.01.2026, State of Uttar Pradesh has 2,930 Court Halls and 2,524 Residential Units for Judicial Officers.

The Phase-III of the eCourts Project (2023-2027) approved on 13.09.2023 with an outlay of Rs.7,210 crore to make justice delivery progressively more robust, easy and accessible. As on date, 226.44 crore pages have been digitized across courts of Uttar Pradesh. Around 69,22,878 cases have been heard through video conferencing facilities available with the courts in Uttar Pradesh. There are 113 eSewa Kendras (facilitation centres) across Uttar Pradesh courts. For the FY 2024-2025, a total fund of Rs. 79.26 crore has been released for implementation of the eCourts project in Uttar Pradesh.

(f): The number of sanctioned, working and vacant posts of Judges in the Allahabad High Court and in district and subordinate courts of Uttar Pradesh, is as below:

Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy
Allahabad High Court	160	109	51
District & Subordinate Court	3700	2631	1069
Total	3,860	2,741	1,119

However, the details of sanctioned, working and vacant posts of Judges in district and subordinate courts is not centrally maintained district-wise.

(g): The disposal of cases is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Central Government is committed for speedy disposal of cases and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution and has taken several initiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary:

- i. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms was set up in August, 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access to justice by reducing delays in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities.
- ii. Arrears Committees have been set up in all 25 High Courts and the District Courts as well to clear cases pending for more than five years.
- iii. The Government has also amended 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 with a view to reduce pendency.
- iv. Alternate Dispute Resolution methods have been promoted. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015 was amended in August, 2018 making Pre-institution Mediation and Settlement (PIMS) mandatory in case of commercial disputes. Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 has been made by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act 2015 for expediting the speedy resolution of disputes by prescribing timelines.
- v. Lok Adalat is an important Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanism available to common

people, 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 it before any court. National Lok Adalats are organized simultaneously in all Taluks, Districts and High Courts on a pre-fixed date.

- vi. The Government launched the Tele-Law program 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. Pro bono culture and pro bono lawyering have been institutionalized in the country. Pro Bono Panel of advocates has been established in 23 High Courts. Pro Bono Clubs have been started in 109 Law Schools to instill Pro Bono culture in budding lawyers.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362 FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES'

Pending cases in Supreme Court and High Courts, along with increase in pendency, for last 3 years

		31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	Increase in Pendency (%)
Supreme Court of India		82674	82496	92101	11.40
Sr No.	High Court				
1	Allahabad High Court	1066757	1139977	1207240	13.17
2	Bombay High Court	667961	695578	664979	-0.45
3	Calcutta High Court	202840	204924	198868	-1.96
4	Gauhati High Court	60463	61674	63867	5.63
5	High Court for the State of Telangana	231975	230337	233866	0.82
6	High Court of Andhra Pradesh	247854	245675	249016	0.47
7	High Court of Chhattisgarh	90515	84620	76434	-15.56
8	High Court of Delhi	113391	118672	124978	10.22
9	High Court of Gujarat	167258	171211	175486	4.92
10	High Court of Himachal Pradesh	88355	93922	102503	16.01
11	High Court of Jammu and Kashmir	42925	43280	42964	0.09
12	High Court of Jharkhand	85728	74350	72170	-15.82
13	High Court of Karnataka	284592	298404	328153	15.31
14	High Court of Kerala	255054	251341	250858	-1.65
15	High Court of Madhya Pradesh	448927	467821	471183	4.96
16	High Court of Manipur	4663	5282	5792	24.21
17	High Court of Meghalaya	1125	1253	1739	54.58
18	High Court of Punjab and Haryana	444114	434480	422112	-4.95
19	High Court of Rajasthan	602269	618831	687595	14.17
20	High Court of Sikkim	180	207	272	51.11
21	High Court of Tripura	1280	1056	1429	11.64
22	High Court of Uttarakhand	50393	55616	59658	18.39
23	Madras High Court	574517	559738	546387	-4.90
24	Orissa High Court	146502	145163	158865	8.44
25	Patna High Court	197462	202250	219609	11.22
	Total	60,77,100	62,05,662	63,66,023	4.75

Source-National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362 FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES'

Pending cases in District & Subordinate Courts, along with increase in pendency, for last 3 years

Sr No.	State	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2025	Increase in Pendency (%)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	9070	8514	8329	-8.17
2	Andhra Pradesh	895282	921948	915398	2.25
3	Arunachal Pradesh	10671	9784	10665	-0.06
4	Assam	451138	496819	564945	25.23
5	Bihar	3608014	3660802	3700012	2.55
6	Chandigarh	91078	104194	100498	10.34
7	Chhattisgarh	418688	420661	452049	7.97
8	Delhi	1229806	1452717	1587493	29.08
9	Goa	63159	60895	61285	-2.97
10	Gujarat	1556371	1503763	1590844	2.21
11	Haryana	1524118	1446433	1521463	-0.17
12	Himachal Pradesh	593875	646753	590988	-0.49
13	Jammu and Kashmir	310486	311925	345785	11.37
14	Jharkhand	560102	547977	564410	0.77
15	Karnataka	1987983	2113569	2237391	12.55
16	Kerala	1897469	1783932	1788680	-5.73
17	Ladakh	1244	1407	1583	27.25
18	Lakshadweep	492	518	539	9.55
19	Madhya Pradesh	2055620	2054704	2098396	2.08
20	Maharashtra	5326823	5612876	5926999	11.27
21	Manipur	13286	12857	13931	4.85
22	Meghalaya	16068	15178	16343	1.71
23	Mizoram	3983	6298	6875	72.61
24	Nagaland	3201	3357	3856	20.46
25	Odisha	1687827	1741306	1793888	6.28
26	Puducherry	37477	35381	36495	-2.62
27	Punjab	876134	864524	914711	4.40
28	Rajasthan	2525123	2496501	2542253	0.68
29	Sikkim	1819	1727	1962	7.86
30	Tamil Nadu	1508744	1520258	1735167	15.01
31	Telangana	920101	947417	976399	6.12
32	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	7314	7750	8346	14.11
33	Tripura	44490	44085	58295	31.03
34	Uttar Pradesh	11444974	11648631	11345328	-0.87
35	Uttarakhand	350474	350069	300614	-14.23
36	West Bengal	2996527	3380587	3835113	27.99
	Total	4,50,29,031	4,62,36,117	4,76,57,328	5.84

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362 FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES'**Details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacant post in Supreme Court & High Courts, as on 11.02.2026**

		Total Sanctioned Strength			Total Working Strength			Total Vacancy		
A.	Supreme Court	34			33			1		
B.	High Court	Permanent	Additional	Total	Permanent	Additional	Total	Permanent	Additional	Total
1	Allahabad	119	41	160	109	0	109	10	41	51
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	9	37	26	6	32	2	3	5
3	Bombay	71	23	94	53	27	80	18	-4	14
4	Calcutta	54	18	72	32	11	43	22	7	29
5	Chhattisgarh	17	5	22	10	5	15	7	0	7
6	Delhi	45	15	60	44	0	44	1	15	16
7	Gauhati	22	8	30	18	7	25	4	1	5
8	Gujarat	39	13	52	35	0	35	4	13	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	4	17	12	0	12	1	4	5
10	J & K and Ladakh	19	6	25	14	0	14	5	6	11
11	Jharkhand	20	5	25	14	0	14	6	5	11
12	Karnataka	47	15	62	42	4	46	5	11	16
13	Kerala	35	12	47	28	12	40	7	0	7
14	Madhya Pradesh	40	13	53	38	4	42	2	9	11
15	Madras	56	19	75	50	3	53	6	16	22
16	Manipur	4	1	5	3	0	3	1	1	2
17	Meghalaya	4	0	4	4	0	4	0	0	0
18	Orissa	24	9	33	19	0	19	5	9	14
19	Patna	40	13	53	38	0	38	2	13	15
20	Punjab & Haryana	64	21	85	45	16	61	19	5	24
21	Rajasthan	38	12	50	33	6	39	5	6	11
22	Sikkim	3	0	3	3	0	3	0	0	0
23	Telangana	32	10	42	20	8	28	12	2	14
24	Tripura	4	1	5	4	0	4	0	1	1
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	11	8	2	10	1	0	1
	Total	847	275	1122	702	111	813	145	164	309

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2362 FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2026 REGARDING 'PENDENCY OF CASES'**Details of sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position in District & Subordinate Courts**

Sl. No.	High Courts	Total		
		Total Sanctioned Strength	Total Working Strength	Total Vacancy
1	Allahabad	3700	2631	1069
2	Andhra Pradesh	643	572	71
3	Bombay	2247	1986	261
4	Chhattisgarh	663	465	198
5	Delhi	897	836	61
6	Gujarat	1720	1185	535
7	Guwahati	646	569	77
8	Himachal Pradesh	188	172	16
9	Jammu & Kashmir	322	270	52
10	Jharkhand	707	496	211
11	Karnataka	1395	1129	266
12	Kerala	615	581	34
13	Kolkata	1105	875	230
14	Ladakh	17	9	8
15	Madhya Pradesh	2028	1639	389
16	Madras	1424	1260	164
17	Manipur	62	49	13
18	Meghalaya	99	57	42
19	Odisha	1044	861	183
20	Patna	2025	1665	360
21	Punjab & Haryana	1623	1374	249
22	Rajasthan	1699	1490	209
23	Sikkim	35	23	12
24	Telangana	560	445	115
25	Tripura	133	119	14
26	Uttarakhand	298	270	28
TOTAL		25,895	21,028	4,867

Source-Nyaya Vikas Portal