

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 741

TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, THE 21st JULY, 2016

Pending Court Cases

**741. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH:
SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH:**

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

- (a) the number of cases pending for more than three years in Supreme Court, High Courts and Subordinate Courts in the country as on date, Court-wise along with the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to implement the "Rate of Disposal Method" as recommended in the Report No. 245 of the Law Commission of India;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the measures taken / being taken by the Government to address the problem of inadequacy of staff and Judges in the judiciary; and**
- (e) whether the Government has taken any initiatives in consultation with the Supreme Court for expeditious disposal of long pending cases in the country and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (e): Data on pendency of cases is maintained by the Supreme Court and High Courts. As per the information made available by the Supreme Court of India, 27,184 cases were pending in the Supreme Court of India for more than 3 years as on 15.07.2016. As per information made available by the High Courts, details of age-wise pendency of cases in various High Courts and District / Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2015 are given in the Statements at **Annexure – I** and **Annexure – II** respectively.

Some of the main factors responsible for pendency of cases in courts are increasing number of state and central legislations, accumulation of first appeals, continuation of ordinary civil jurisdiction in some of the High Courts, vacancies of Judges, appeals against orders of quasi-judicial forums going to High Courts, number of revisions / appeals, frequent adjournments,

indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction, lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing.

The Supreme Court, in the case of Imtiyaz Ahmed *versus* State of Uttar Pradesh & Others, *inter-alia*, asked the Law Commission of India to evolve a method for scientific assessment of the number of additional courts to clear the backlog of cases. The Law Commission in its 245th Report recommended 'Rate of Disposal Method' for calculating adequate judge strength for District and Subordinate Courts. The matter is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court, at present.

The sanctioned strength of High Court Judges has increased from 906 judges in June 2014 to 1079 judges in June 2016. The sanctioned strength of judicial officers / judges in Districts and Subordinate Courts is within the domain of State Governments and High Courts concerned. On account of the concerted efforts made by all stakeholders the sanctioned strength of the Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts has increased from 17,715 at the end of 2012 to 20,502 in December, 2015.

The Arrears Committees have been set up in the High Courts to clear backlog of cases pending for more than five years. Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter-alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers / judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
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Age-wise Breakup of Pending Cases in High Courts as on 31.12.2015						
Sl. No	High Court	0 to 2 years old	2 to 5 years old	5 to 10 years old	More than 10 years old	Total
1.	Allahabad	163852	188122	255660	311195	918829
2.	Andhra Pradesh	87543	84913	72316	25500	270272
3.	Bombay	80536	54185	61318	50402	246441
4.	Calcutta	48856	41228	64330	66868	221282
5.	Delhi	38773	13653	11854	4504	68784
6.	Gujarat	31129	21277	21322	13344	87072
7.	Gauhati	14359	7537	3765	287	25948
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10863	10705	4022	943	26533
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	22916	15975	14462	3100	56453
10.	Karnataka	131812	79659	24776	1207	237454
11.	Kerala	58801	45119	41818	11631	157369
12.	Madras	103248	89563	60219	31398	284428
13.	Madhya Pradesh	93639	74283	68795	37110	273827
14.	Orissa	46242	41749	38739	42723	169453
15.	Patna	57201	34194	20379	16964	128738
16.	Punjab & Haryana	113585	62389	52333	60044	288351
17.	Rajasthan	73443	59190	65440	46793	244866
18.	Sikkim	110	3	1	0	114
19.	Uttarakhand	13205	8395	4394	686	26680
20.	Chhattisgarh	18771	12529	10912	7899	50111
21.	Jharkhand	25101	21719	22065	11534	80419
22.	Tripura	2340	619	77	1	3037
23.	Manipur	1714	1435	160	6	3315
24.	Meghalaya	552	27	18	0	597
Total		1238591	968468	919175	744139	3870373

Annexure-II

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
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Age-wise Breakup of Pending Cases in District / Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.2015						
Sl. No	Name of the State / UT	0 to 2 years old	2 to 5 years old	5 to 10 years old	More than 10 years old	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh and Telegana	622506	282212	108166	18631	1031515
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6518	2080	119	59	8776
3.	Assam	154879	66632	14916	6076	242503
4.	Bihar	632787	645972	620527	174017	2073303
5.	Chhattisgarh	134843	82279	45793	23047	285962
6.	Goa	30036	5503	2353	1723	39615
7.	Gujarat	742025	562628	448624	388734	2142011
8.	Haryana	396382	117644	9773	482	524281
9.	Himachal Pradesh	96825	51707	13312	709	162553
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	83151	29948	9525	2139	124763
11.	Jharkhand	125836	129669	57007	11845	324357
12.	Karnataka	746141	369469	131383	21973	1268966
13.	Kerala	955114	304372	77898	7743	1345127
14.	Madhya Pradesh	638716	404688	111980	36415	1191799
15.	Maharashtra	1734069	657484	390280	212241	2994074
16.	Manipur	2213	3473	1150	49	6885
17.	Meghalaya	2141	2084	2868	400	7493
18.	Mizoram	3674	866	82	49	4671
19.	Nagaland	1979	848	604	431	3862
20.	Orissa	430432	248782	226838	157987	1064039
21.	Punjab	355164	127977	19510	1377	504028
22.	Rajasthan	674740	423125	273622	107686	1479173
23.	Sikkim	1140	148	7	4	1299
24.	Tamil Nadu	557620	352011	131009	42153	1082793
25.	Tripura	97851	20378	8896	2664	129789
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2198544	1648674	1075769	651503	5574490
27.	Uttarakhand	100523	46457	16237	3401	166618
28.	West Bengal	1276815	817755	389326	134917	2618813
29.	A & N Island	4717	3107	1484	187	9495
30.	Chandigarh	27640	7452	1167	63	36322
31.	D & N Haveli	2086	282	1153	382	3903
32.	Daman & Diu	1226	221	196	80	1723
33.	Delhi	335694	128236	55399	20272	539601
34.	Lakshadweep	224	116	37	3	380
35.	Pondicherry	13387	7952	3109	525	24973
Total		13187638	7552231	4250119	2029967	27019955
