

1	2	3	4	5
16	Orissa	22	16	6
17	Patna	43	23	20
18	Punjab & Haryana	68	46	22
19	Rajasthan	40	29	11
20	Sikkim	3	3	-
21	Uttarakhand	9	8	1
TOTAL :		886	646	240

**Pending cases**

†2495. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- the number of pending cases in the lower courts of the country, State-wise;
- the increase in the number of pending cases in these courts during the last five years;
- the action plan of the Ministry to dispose of these pending cases;
- the reasons for slow disposal of the pending cases; and
- whether additional courts are being set up to dispose of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per the reports received from the Registries of the High Courts, 2,66,50,467 cases were pending in the Subordinate Courts as on 31.12.08. The State-wise number of pending cases in Subordinate Courts is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) As per the information available, the pendency of cases in Subordinate Courts has increased from 2,29,62,632 at the end of the year 2003 to 2,66,50,467 at the end of the year 2008 *i.e.* the increase of 36,87,835.

(c) to (e) Some of the main reasons for pendency in Subordinate Courts as identified by various Commissions and Committees including the Law Commission are given below:

- Population and Litigation Explosion.
- Institution of fresh cases.
- Inadequacy of Judges' strength.
- Delays in filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts.
- Inadequacy of staff attached to the Subordinate Courts.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(vi) Granting of unnecessary adjournments

(vii) Frequent closure of courts on account of lawyers' strikes etc.

Speedy disposal of pending cases is within the domain of Judiciary. However, Government has taken various measures to facilitate speedy disposal of cases in Subordinate courts:

(1) Introduction of the scheme of 'Fast Track Courts' which has been extended upto 31.3.2010. Fast Track Courts were set-up to expedite disposal of long pending sessions cases and the cases of undertrial prisoners. As per the information received, 25.07 lakh cases have been disposed of by these courts out of 31.01 lakh cases transferred to them.

(2) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code have been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.

(3) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged.

(4) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.

(5) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. Government is implementing a scheme for computerization of District & Subordinate Courts.

(6) Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 (Act 4 of 2009) has been enacted, which provides for establishment of nearly 5067 Gram Nyayalayas and will bring justice at the door step of the rural people after it is operationalised by the States.

#### ***Statement***

##### *Pendency position in the subordinate courts for the year 2008*

Sl. No.	States	Case Type	Opening balance	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	Civil	478046	304949	311148	471847
		Criminal	473608	359258	345278	487587
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Civil	461	437	287	611
		Criminal	4828	1371	2069	4130
3	Assam	Civil	71851	35281	28992	78140
		Criminal	146636	166504	161562	151578

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	Bihar	Civil	252874	47584	46973	253227
		Criminal	1120549	289858	228139	1182268
5	Chhattisgarh	Civil	51039	2271	2209	51101
		Criminal	213911	17701	13349	218263
6	Goa*	Civil	19572	10239	11061	18750
		Criminal	14376	14210	13405	15181
7	Gujarat	Civil	728305	231052	237964	721393
		Criminal	2124298	1018937	1451488	1691747
8	Haryana	Civil	220552	144543	145643	219452
		Criminal	335882	297600	302523	330959
9	Himachal Pradesh	Civil	62262	50670	48644	64288
		Criminal	80648	104703	102973	82378
10	Jammu & Kashmir	Civil	52720	51239	43107	60852
		Criminal	95630	186433	177537	104526
11	Jharkhand	Civil	44284	16662	15538	45408
		Criminal	228034	105216	108289	224960
12	Karnataka	Civil	564276	286667	283504	567439
		Criminal	535001	465607	493527	507081
13	Kerala	Civil	379876	259695	270819	368752
		Criminal	565531	785766	742064	609223
14	Madhya Pradesh	Civil	194535	216791	208805	202521
		Criminal	826048	967400	924593	868855
15	Maharashtra*	Civil	979460	337503	344338	972625
		Criminal	3168559	1314396	1409798	3073157
16	Manipur	Civil	3057	2305	2302	3060
		Criminal	3552	5339	6559	3332
17	Meghalaya	Civil	3903	1467	1372	3998
		Criminal	6807	2400	850	8357
18	Mizoram	Civil	2119	1003	601	2521
		Criminal	4743	5040	4327	5456

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19	Nagaland	Civil	1799	571	493	1877
		Criminal	3566	1250	990	3826
20	Orissa*	Civil	178430	49390	46099	181721
		Criminal	814007	216881	196083	834805
21	Punjab	Civil	276798	153079	162619	267258
		Criminal	315287	267258	364628	303965
22	Rajasthan	Civil	286598	178188	159215	352375
		Criminal	842687	709513	624908	945254
23	Sikkim*	Civil	189	185	171	203
		Criminal	504	1059	978	585
24	Tamil Nadu	Civil	499018	814711	737663	576066
		Criminal	429028	761808	750304	440532
25	Tripura	Civil	6146	5638	5131	6653
		Criminal	30557	89698	75729	44526
26	Uttar Pradesh	Civil	1229650	473974	446540	1257084
		Criminal	3644965	2231672	1973547	3903090
27	Uttarakhand	Civil	28518	28746	26570	33204
		Criminal	102251	148082	120869	137230
28	West Bengal	Civil	496463	130015	116885	509593
		Criminal	1698168	1024587	821014	1901741
29	A & N Island#	Civil				
		Criminal				
30	Chandigarh	Civil	20566	9180	9165	20581
		Criminal	82044	104817	107531	79330
31	D & N Haveli#	Civil				
		Criminal				
32	Daman & Diu#	Civil				
		Criminal				
33	Delhi	Civil	145043	129148	76379	197812
		Criminal	935328	1215050	1199449	950931

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34	Lakshadweep	Civil	91	20	33	78
		Criminal	107	93	122	78
35	Pondicherry	Civil	13449	16280	14525	15204
		Criminal	8845	19971	18974	9842
TOTAL :			26147935	16889951	16548251	26650467

\* Information as on 31.12.2007

# Information not received

#### Online facility for speedy disposal of cases

2496 SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing online facility for all the courts to solve the cases quickly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present status thereof; and
- (d) the view of State Governments especially from Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Government has approved a scheme, the E-Courts Project, at a cost of Rs. 442 crore for computerization of the District and Subordinate Courts in the country and for upgrading the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure of the higher courts.

The scheme is being implemented by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The scheme aims, *inter alia*, to equip the courts with ICT tools to enable them to improve the case management and court administration. The scheme would also provide online availability of information on case status, cause-list etc to the litigants and advocates. It also aims at establishing a National Judicial Data Grid connecting all the courts in India to enable seamless sharing of information across the judicial network.

(c) Phase I of the E-courts project is presently under implementation. Under the project, 13,365 Judicial Officers have so far been provided with laptops, 56720 Judicial Officers and Court staff have been trained in the use of ICT tools and 12599 laser printers have been supplied to the courts. Site preparation work in the court complexes identified by the High Courts is under process for setting up server rooms/service centres. ICT hardware has been delivered to the Supreme Court and 12 High Courts. Local Area Network (LAN) Survey has been completed in High Courts. For supply of technical manpower at District Court, 190 candidates have been trained and deployed across the district courts under 11 High Courts. At High Court and High Court Bench level, 27 candidates have been trained and deployed in 11 High Courts. Internet connectivity has been